

## Shuttle orbits with space telescope

CAPE CANAVERAL (R) — The U.S. space shuttle Discovery soared into orbit Tuesday with the revolutionary Hubble space telescope that will try to unlock the mysteries of the universe. "Liftoff of space shuttle Discovery and a new window on the universe," launch commentator George Diller said as the shuttle streaked into blue Florida sky at 8:33 a.m. (1233 GMT). The liftoff came about two minutes late because an unexpected mechanical problem briefly halted the countdown with 31 seconds to go. Launch controllers indicated a problem with a valve but were able to use the shuttle's computers to fix it quickly. Nine minutes later, Discovery was in orbit. "Controllers report good performance on all phases of ascent," said mission control commentator Billie Deason. Highlight of the five-day mission will be deployment on Wednesday of the \$2.5-billion Hubble telescope.

Volume 15 Number 4375

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, RAMADAN 30, 1410

## Geagea clamps blockade on Aoun

BEIRUT (AP) — Christian militia chieftain Samir Geagea has imposed a sea blockade on rebel General Michel Aoun's forces in an escalation of their three-month-old power struggle for control of Lebanon's Christian enclave, police reported Tuesday. Geagea's gunboats patrolled off the three-kilometre stretch of Mediterranean coastline Aoun controls north of Beirut as militia fighters and the general's troops clashed sporadically with artillery and mortars. Police reported one person was killed and four wounded. Police said Geagea's gunboats began the blockade Monday and were "preventing even fishing boats from sailing" off the coastline held by Aoun's troops, the spokesman said. Security sources said the militia has one gunboat, one patrol boat and about 20 speedboats fitted with a machine gun and rocket launchers. Aoun is reported to have two crippled gunboats hidden somewhere near Dibayé, a coastal village north of Beirut controlled by his troops and their only outlet to the sea.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جordan Times جريدة عربية مستقلة ناشرها مؤسسة الأنباء الأردنية (الرأي)



## Eid starts tomorrow

JORDAN (J.T.) — Chief Islamic cleric Mohammad Mheilan announced that the moon of Shawwal was not sighted Tuesday, and therefore the 'Eid Al Fitr fast will not start until Thursday, a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, disclosed said Wednesday was the set day of the Holy Month of Ramadan. In his statement, Mheilan congratulated His Majesty King Hussein and royal family, the people of Jordan and the Arab and Islamic nations on the occasion of the feast.

## U.S. renews warning to WHO

GENEVA (AP) — The United States reiterated Tuesday it will stop funding the World Health Organisation (WHO), including WHO's anti-AIDS programme, if the agency admits the State of Palestine as a full member next month. The U.S. "clarification" followed comments last week by WHO's director general, Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, that he assumes the threatened cut-off would only affect the agency's regular budget and not end voluntary payments, such as the U.S. contribution to WHO's global programme on AIDS.

## Iranian resistance leader shot dead

COPPET, Switzerland (R) — Kazem Rajavi, a leading opponent of the Iranian government, was shot dead near his home in this Geneva lakeside town Tuesday, relatives said. They said Rajavi, 56, brother of Massoud Rajavi, leader of the leftist Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, was shot in the head at close range by two men. Witnesses said two people in the car, which had a Geneva number plate, escaped and the vehicle was found later, badly damaged. Rajavi, who taught sociology at Geneva University, had lived in Switzerland for over a decade. He was married with two sons.

## Dutch upgrades contacts with PLO

THE HAGUE (R) — The Netherlands had its highest level contact ever with the PLO when Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek met with PLO officials Tuesday. Van den Broek met informally for one hour with Nabil Shata, a close aide to PLO leader Yasir Arafat, prominent Palestinian Faisal Hussein and PLO representative in The Hague. Aaf Safieh, the Foreign Ministry said. The discussion between the Netherlands, long seen as Israel's closest friend in Europe, and the PLO focused on ways to advance stalled Middle East peace talks, and Palestinian ties with the European Community, a ministry spokesman said.

## Germans set July 2 as target date for monetary union

BONN (R) — The leaders of the two Germans, meeting in Bonn Tuesday for their first detailed talks on monetary union, set July 2 as the target date for merging their widely divergent economies. East German Finance Minister Lothar de Maiziere and Bonn's Chancellor Helmut Kohl also reached a broad consensus on the planned treaty to graft the East's crippled state-run system on to the West's powerhouse economy, government sources said. Both governments will hold cabinet meetings Wednesday.

## Kuwait cabinet passes decrees assembly

WAJHAT (R) — The Kuwait cabinet meeting in an extraordinary session Tuesday approved two draft decrees on holding parliamentary elections in June, an official statement said. The statement, published by the official Kuwait News Agency (UNA), said the decrees were referred to the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, for endorsement. The meeting followed Sheikh Jaber's announcement in a nationwide speech Sunday that parliamentary life was to be revived through electing an interim four-year national assembly.

## Project could save up to \$50 m a year for Jordan

### Accord in principle reached on link with Iraq-Yanbu oil line

By Ghadeer Taher  
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Jordan has reached agreement in principle with Iraq and Saudi Arabia to receive Iraqi oil through linking an Iraqi pipeline running through Saudi territory with another line which now pumps Saudi oil to Jordan, informed sources said Tuesday. The project will save Jordan \$40 million to \$50 million a year in transport cost it pays for trucking oil from Iraq, according to Jordanian officials and experts. Jordan gets about 80 per cent of its oil needs from Iraq and the rest from Saudi Arabia.

The initial Jordanian estimate for the project was \$2 million, but Saudi officials were said to have placed the cost at about \$6 million.

Saudi Arabia has given its blessing for the project and Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Al Nasser discussed the project during the prime minister's re-

cent visit to Saudi Arabia, Jordanian sources said.

Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Al Chalabi confirmed Tuesday that a project was under study to link the Saudi Tapline and the Iraqi pipeline, which runs from Iraq to the Saudi port of Yanbu, 440 kilometres from Jeddah, but declined to make more specific comments.

However, Chalabi, who was here Tuesday attending a meeting of the oil and energy ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), rejected assertions that Baghdad had reservations over the project. "Iraq supports the idea but we have to wait and see when the project study is finalised," he said.

The study is still not complete but the project has been under discussion for a while," the minister told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview.

According to the sources, the project envisages linking Tapline with the twin Iraqi pipeline, known as IPSA-1 and IPSA-2, which became fully

operational in September 1989 with a total pumping capacity of 1.65 million barrels per day. The exact specifications of the linkage project or where exactly the connection was envisaged were not immediately available.

The 142-centimetre Iraqi pipeline runs a total of 1,640 kilometres, over 40 per cent of it through Saudi Arabia.

An informed official source confirmed experts' and other estimates that the linkage will save Jordan between \$40 million to \$50 million in charges paid to tanker trucks and road maintenance costs. The tanker charges alone are estimated to add \$2 to each barrel of oil.

"Even if the project costs Jordan \$2 million to \$6 million, it will still be very feasible for the Kingdom," the sources said.

Jordan imports 18 million barrels of Iraqi oil every year and most of it is either in the form of barter trade and in repayment of Iraqi debt to the Kingdom estimated at about \$600 million.

According to Jordanian Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taher, Jordan pays an average of \$400 million in oil import bills annually.

The pipeline connection will also give a boost to the economy of the Kingdom, which is grappling with an \$8 billion foreign debt and undergoing an economic restructuring programme.

A senior Jordanian official described support for the project as a tangible move by Iraq and Saudi Arabia to help Jordan's economy. "Arab economic aid to Jordan is crucial at this difficult time," said the official, who preferred anonymity. "We hope that if implemented the project would be the first in a series of steps to further strengthen Jordan's economic security and prosperity," the official added.

At a press conference Tuesday at the end of the ACC ministers' deliberations, Taher

(Continued on page 3)

## ACC calls for better use of oil resources

By Salameh Ne'matt  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) oil and energy ministers ended a two-day meeting here Tuesday with calls for a better employment of oil resources to advance economic development and achieve greater strategic strength on the international market.

The four ministers — Thabet Taher of Jordan, Issam Chalabi of Iraq, Abdul Hadi Ounieel of Egypt and Ahmad Ali Mahni of North Yemen — agreed to set up specialised committees to follow up the implementation of all aspects of an oil and gas agreement signed among the four states during the ACC summit

ers stressed the importance of "building an independent and integrated oil and energy industry, limiting unnecessary consumption, and working towards developing stronger economies and better productivity."

The four ministers — Thabet Taher of Jordan, Issam Chalabi of Iraq, Abdul Hadi Ounieel of Egypt and Ahmad Ali Mahni of North Yemen — agreed to set up specialised committees to follow up the implementation of all aspects of an oil and gas agreement signed among the four states during the ACC summit

(Continued on page 3)

## U.S. representatives adopt Jerusalem motion

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The U.S. House of Representatives approved a non-binding resolution Tuesday recognising a "united Jerusalem" as the capital of Israel, a position at odds with official U.S. policy.

The 378 to 34 vote came despite arguments that such a move by Congress would cause resentment among Arab states and complicate administration efforts to achieve peace.

The resolution was identical to one approved March 22 by the Senate. Senate minority leader Bob Dole complained after a trip to the Middle East last week that the move had damaged peace efforts and said he regretted his support for it.

Dole's comments touched off an intra-party dispute, with a group of house Republicans lead-

ers condemning the senator for not supporting Israel strongly enough.

U.S. policy holds that Jerusalem's status must be determined through negotiations among all parties, and does not recognise it as the Israeli capital.

The U.S. embassy to Israel is located in Tel Aviv.

Representative Eliot Engel of New York, the chief house sponsor of the resolution, said he acted because President Bush had called into question Jerusalem's status by opposing Israeli settlements in Arab Jerusalem as well as in the occupied West Bank.

"Jerusalem is the heart and soul of Israel," Engel said during a brief debate on the resolution. "If the Israelis are willing to take

(Continued on page 3)

## U.S. Christians voice concern over settlers

NEW YORK (Agencies) — U.S. Eastern Orthodox leaders have voiced their distress at recent Jewish settlements in the Christian sector of the Old City of Jerusalem, saying that church property was occupied.

They asked for a meeting with Secretary of State James Baker about the "unjustified occupation" and "subsequent provocative incidents," church officials announced.

In Washington Monday, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler called the settler move into the Christian quarter "an insensitive and provocative action."

She said Israel's funding of the settlement "is deeply disturbing"

and that U.S. Ambassador William Brown was raising the issue with Israeli officials.

Telegrams about the matter were sent last week from the U.S. Eastern Orthodox leaders to Baker, Jerusalem's Greek Orthodox Patriarch Diodorus and Israeli President Chaim Herzog.

American Jewish leaders also criticised the settlement of 20 Jewish families in the Christian quarter of Jerusalem. The move set off criticism in Israel as well as elsewhere.

In Jerusalem Monday, church leaders announced that Christian shrines in the Holy Land will close Friday and ring a funeral toll from their bell towers to protest the settlement.

## Shamir under attack for reviving his plan

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Hardliners have attacked caretaker Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir for promising to renew his Palestinian election initiative in order to win over a small religious party.

Some ministers from Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc postponed signing an accord reached Sunday between Shamir and rabbi Ovadia Yossef, the spiritual leader of the ultra-orthodox Shas party, Israel television reported.

Shamir himself signed the path to peace accord Sunday night before presenting it to the Likud ministers. The agreement reiterated his commitment to advance the government's initiative but also included an agreement to send an Israeli delegation to meet Palestinians to discuss elections in the occupied territories, Israel Radio said.

(Continued on page 4)

## Moscow warns U.S. against sanctions

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet Union warned the United States Tuesday against imposing sanctions over its handling of rebellious Lithuania, saying such a move could stoke nationalism.

But in Washington, President George Bush said he had not yet decided what steps, if any, he would take against Moscow for its partial economic blockade against Lithuania.

"The decision has not been made," Bush told reporters in comments clearly aimed at easing tensions over Lithuania.

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Vadim Peretyayev had told a Moscow news conference earlier he hoped Washington would not impose trade and economic sanctions widely expected in the West.

"Any complication, any action which could cause additional friction could not be positive and could not be productive," he told reporters in response to questions.

"This should be kept in mind by those who are advising in the

measures or sanctions be taken against our country or pressure on the Soviet leadership. Willingly or not, these actions could play into the hands of ambitions and nationalistic moods, and in this way render a disservice to Lithuania."

The KGB has reinforced its units on the Lithuanian border and increased patrols offshore, a Soviet official said Tuesday. The moves come less than a week after the Kremlin cut off oil and gas to Lithuania.

Also Tuesday, a five-member delegation dispatched from Vilnius to meet with Soviet representatives in Moscow failed to win an audience, one of the representatives said.

KGB Lieutenant Anatoly Parshin, chief of the secret police's border guard unit, indicated fears that weapons may be brought into Lithuania led to the tightened security along the border, the official TASS news agency reported.

The TASS report did not mention the Kremlin's economic

embargo imposed on Lithuania. It also did not say if the KGB would half supplies of raw materials that might be shipped to Lithuania from other countries or other republics in the Soviet Union.

The Lithuanian delegation that travelled to Moscow was told the officials it wanted to see — Gorbachev's aide Alexander Yakovlev and other members of the Soviet leader's advisory board, the presidential council — were either away on business trips or otherwise unavailable, delegate Meicis Laurinkus said.

"We will wait until Thursday," he said in a telephone interview with the Associated Press. "Maybe we will get something."

Lithuania's parliament decided to open a round of discussions with the Kremlin on settling the crisis. Gorbachev and his advisers have repeatedly rebuffed earlier Lithuanian attempts to discuss the situation.

## Settlers go on rampage through W. Bank town

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Armed Israeli settlers Monday night went on a rampage through the occupied West Bank town of Hebron and a settler leader was wounded by stonethrowers Tuesday, reports said.

On Monday night, about 15 cars loaded with Jewish settlers smashed car windows, slashed tires and threw stones at houses in Hebron in retaliation for a shooting attack on a settler bus. Arab witnesses reported.

In the West Bank, meanwhile, a leading Jewish settler leader suffered a cut on the head when he was stoned by Palestinians in Hebron.

The settler who invaded Hebron were members of Kiryat Arba's "security committee" which has ties to the anti-Arab Koch movement of U.S.-born rabbi Meir Kahane, the Israeli daily Haaretz said.

Levinger said he suffered a cut in the head when stones rained on him near the Beit Romano settler

enclave in the heart of Hebron. He said he put his hand on his gun and the stone-throwers fled. "I did not fire because I didn't see exactly who threw the stones," said Levinger, who is charged with shooting to death an Arab salesman and wounding a customer after being stoned in Hebron Sept. 30, 1988.

Troops clamped a curfew on Hebron's downtown shopping area on Tuesday to prevent further confrontations, an army official said.

The closure angered Hebron's residents because it cut short the last full shopping day before the 'Eid Al Fitr holiday.

Levinger is a leader of the Gush Emunim movement which advocates settling as many Jews as possible in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Levinger brought Jewish settlers to Hebron

## Summit call gathers support

BAHRAYN (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat arrived Tuesday for talks with the emir, Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, for convening an emergency Arab summit over an expected flood of Soviet Jews emigrating to Israel.

Arafat flew from Qatar amid growing support for the summit conference.

In Doha, an official statement said Qatar's emir, Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani, backed his call an emergency summit to line up "effective and suitable resolutions in face of the present threats confronting the Arab Nation."

Diplomatic sources said the initial Arab response to the

Greece to upgrade ties with Israel

ATHENS (R) — Greece will establish full diplomatic relations with Israel for the first time since the Jewish state was created in 1948, Conservative Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis said Tuesday.

Greece is the only European Community (EC) country which does not have full relations with Israel, although it has had de facto relations and an Israeli diplomatic mission in Athens since 1949.

"We have taken the decision for the de jure (legal) recognition of Israel," he told parliament in a policy speech for his new Democracy Party which assumed power after national elections April 8.

During his election campaign, Mitsotakis said he would establish full relations with Israel within three months of taking office.

Clashes in Jerusalem earlier this month between Jewish settlers and Greek Orthodox clerics raised doubts whether he would go ahead with the pledge.

Greece protested officially to the Israeli government about the occupation and condemned Israeli authorities for not enforcing a legal eviction order against the settlers.

## Groups make arrangements to free Belgian, Swiss hostages

BEIRUT (R) — Final arrangements are underway to release a Belgian family kidnapped more than three years ago by Palestinians of Abu Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC), Palestinian sources said Tuesday.

They said a breakthrough had been made following talks by Belgian and Libyan officials and leaders of the FRC which holds Emmanuel Houtekens, his wife Godelieve and teenaged children Laurent and Valerie.

Three other members of the group, Frenchwoman Jacqueline Valente, her Belgian lover Fernand Houtekens and their daughter Sophie were freed by the FRC earlier this month following an appeal by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

Valente's other two daughters were freed in December, 1968.

The sources said a Belgian envoy, believed to be Jan Hollants van Looke, Brussels' director general for political affairs, was holding talks in Tripoli, while Belgian ambassador to Lebanon Jan Kamps met a Libyan diplomat in Beirut and was contacting the FRC.

The contacts were fruitful. The issue has matured and the final arrangements for the release of the four Belgians are underway," one source said. "Soon they will be free."

Van Looke visited Beirut before Valente and Houtekens were

released to lay the ground for their freedom.

The FRC has demanded the release of one of its members imprisoned in Belgium, Nasser Said, who is serving a life sentence for an attack on a Jewish bus in Antwerp in 1968.

FRC spokesman Walid Khaled said the Belgian government promised to release Said last year.

News of the possible release of the Belgians follows the freeing in Beirut Sunday of American hostage Robert Polhill, 55, after 1,183 days in the hands of the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestinian.

Lebanese and Palestinian officials were meanwhile holding a flurry of contacts in the southern Lebanese port city of Sidon Tuesday to secure the release of two kidnapped Swiss relief workers, the paper said.

Another 14 Westerners are believed still in the hands of pro-Iranian hostage-takers.

The talks in Sidon concentrated on the fate of Emmanuel Christen and Eric Erriquez who were working for the International Committee of the Red Cross

(ICRC) when they were abducted on Oct. 6, 1969, in Sidon 40 kilometers south of Beirut.

No group claimed responsibility for their abduction, but security sources said the two were believed held by the FRC.

Valente, her daughters and the Belgians were seized from their yacht the Silco in the eastern Mediterranean.

On Monday, Qadhafi appealed for the release of all hostages held by Muslims, as well as Palestinians detained by Israel.

Qadhafi singled out hostages "carrying out humanitarian services like members of the Red Cross."

Amid Western euphoria over the release of the U.S. hostage, Syria's official Al Baath newspaper Tuesday urged Washington to remember the plight of Palestinians jailed in Israel.

"The cause of (Western) hostages should direct (U.S.) attention to the thousands of Palestinian prisoners in Zionist jails," the paper said.

"The hostage problem as a whole can be considered as part of the general framework of the (Middle East) conflict," it added.

Washington should adopt a neutral stance in the Arab-Israeli conflict, said the paper, the official organ of the ruling Baath Party.

In Washington, President George Bush telephoned Syrian

President Hafez Assad Monday to thank him for helping free Polhill and the White House said it was pressing for the unconditional release of seven Americans still held captive in Lebanon.

"The president... emphasized his strong interest in the fate of the remaining hostages and his hope that they would be released as soon as possible," said a White House statement about the phone call.

It said Bush had also called His Majesty King Hussein Monday "for a general discussion of Middle East issues." There was no further elaboration but it was announced in Amman that Bush had invited King Hussein to visit the United States this year.

One day after Polhill's release by pro-Iranian militants in Lebanon through Syrian intermediaries, U.S. officials expressed gratitude but stressed Washington's position that it wanted all hostages freed without conditions.

"The U.S. government continues to probe all sources of information about the hostages... that certainly is continuing now and becomes a slightly more concentrated effort anytime you have a release of hostages like this," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said.

"We are not going to trade for our hostages," Fitzwater added.

## Havel to pass Arafat comments on to Israel

By Paul Taylor  
Reuter

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Israel, which already has a formidable list of foes in the Muslim World, seems bent on alienating major Christian communities by implanting a Jewish settlement in the heart of Jerusalem's Christian quarter.

The government has responded defiantly to protests from all Christian churches in the Holy Land and from the U.S. government over the settlement of 150 Jews in St. John's Hospice.

St. John's is near the holiest site in Christendom — the Church of Holy Sepulchre where Christians believe Christ was entombed and resurrected.

"It is the right of Jews to live everywhere and to purchase or rent property in all parts of the land of Israel, especially in Jerusalem," the Foreign Ministry said Monday.

The statement was issued a day after the Housing Ministry broke an 11-day silence and acknowledged it secretly paid \$1.8 million of taxpayers' money towards leasing the complex, owned by the Greek Orthodox Church.

It is the first time Jews have settled in the Christian quarter since Israel occupied the walled Old City of Jerusalem in the 1967 Middle East war.

The ministry, controlled by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing Likud Party, also appears to have blessed the highly unorthodox methods used to acquire the lease.

According to the family of the building's Armenian lessee, he was duped into selling to the lease

to a man purporting to be a devout Lebanese Christian who turned out to be a front-man for the settlers.

A Panamanian straw company actually paid for the lease and is now fighting a rearguard action in the Israeli courts against the church's attempt to evict its unwanted tenants.

The cloak-and-dagger operation was carried out in Easter week, as Jerusalem was full of Christian pilgrims and tourists. It climaxed with the teargassing of clergymen demonstrating outside the holy city.

Land announced Monday they would close Christian holy places in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth and Galilee next Friday in protest at the government-backed settlement.

The Greek Orthodox, Latin and Armenian Patriarchs, the Franciscan custos, the Coptic, Syrian and Ethiopian archbishops, the Anglican bishop, the Greek Catholic patriarchal vicar and the Lutheran provost all said the settlement "endangers the survival of all Christian communities in the holy city."

Israel's Religious Affairs Ministry accused the churches of a serious infringement of the status quo among the religious communities — precisely the charge the churches level against the settlers.

The row with the churches may even affect Christian tourism to Jerusalem, a major currency earner. Ironically Christian pilgrims continued to flock to Israel while Jewish tourism has been hit by the Palestinian uprising.

Palestinians say they are convinced the settlement is part of a long-term Israeli plan to drive them out of the Old City.

In their eyes, it began with the 1967 reconstruction of the former Jewish quarter in the Old City, where Arabs were buried by law from living, and continued with controversial settlements in recent years in the Muslim quarter.

The settlers themselves talk of building a "corridor of Jewish settlement" through the Old City from the Holy Sepulchre.

In an unprecedented move, the heads of all churches in the Holy

## News Analysis

the new settlement.

As pilgrims walked in traditional Easter processions up the Via Dolorosa, the Christian quarter was full of Israeli riot police and armed settlers with walkie-talkies shielding the new residents.

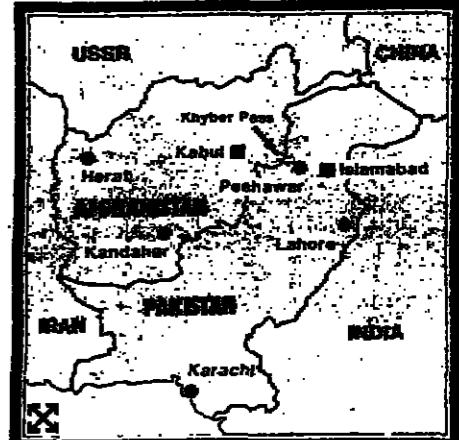
How could the Israeli government support such a provocation, Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek asked indignantly. He called it a severe setback for Jewish-Arab coexistence in the city and for the status of Jerusalem.

The settlement has mobilised the usually apolitical Greek Orthodox Church behind the Palestinian nationalist uprising in the occupied territories and rallied other churches under the same anti-Israel banner.

Masked Arab militants demonstrated bearing outlawed Palestinian flags inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

In an unprecedented move, the heads of all churches in the Holy

## Afghan rebel leader hints at compromise with Kabul



PESHAWAR (R) — Afghan guerrilla leader Sibghatullah Mojaddidi hinted Tuesday that Mujahideen Muslim fighters might be prepared to compromise with the Soviet-backed government in Kabul over a political settlement.

Mojaddidi, president of the Afghan rebel government in exile, told a news conference that if he were sincere about peace, President Najibullah should step down before elections.

"If this becomes reality a joint commission from both sides can be appointed to do the needful," he said.

He will also receive an honorary degree from the Hebrew University.

Meanwhile, a group of Palestinian students studying in Czechoslovakia has asked Havel to take them with him on his visit to Israel.

In an open letter to Havel, made available by the Palestine Liberation Organisation in Tunis, the students argued that they have a greater right to return than 24,000 Soviet Jews who have emigrated to Israel this year.

Iah should have any role.

The United States and the Mujahideen want him to step down at the beginning of any peace process while Moscow is insisting he remain in power while elections are organised.

Mojaddidi confirmed that the guerrilla leadership was discussing proposals for internationally supervised elections to a Loya Jirga, a traditional grand council, which would draft a new constitution and organise general elections.

in both government-held and Mujahideen-held areas.

On Monday the rebel government denied Pakistan press reports that an accord had already been reached and the 11-year-old war was all but over.

Under the plan being promoted by moderate guerrilla leader Syed Ahmad Gailani, the Jirga would draft a new constitution and organise general elections.

## Ford reportedly backed Israel's retention of Golan

Arab neighbours," including Syria.

"Should it (the U.S.) do so," Ford wrote on Sept. 1, "it will give great weight to Israel's position that any peace agreement with Syria must be predicated on Israel remaining on the Golan Heights."

The letter, which had been classified secret, was published by the institute for advanced strategic and political studies of Jerusalem in a report titled, "Can Israel survive a Palestinian state?"

In his letter, Ford called the withdrawal arranged through shuttle-diplomacy by Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, "an act of great significance."

Ford promised to maintain Israel's defensive strength through the supply of advanced

not as categorical as the Israeli would have liked," said the former official, insisting on anonymity. "It sympathises with the Israeli position without binding us to it fully and without prejudging the outcome."

The main conclusion of the study was that establishment of a Palestinian state on the West Bank and in Gaza, territories also would pose a danger to the Jewish state.

Israel returned part of the Golan Heights to Syria in 1974 in an agreement mediated by Kissinger. Israel subsequently extended its legal authority — a step short of annexation — to the rest of the territory.

The assurance "probably was

Upper/lower price in lire per kg.

Almonds	600/700
Apple	600/640
Banana	650/700
Banana (Milkman)	600/650
Beefs	450/490
Broad beans	220/250
Cabbage	90/100
Carrot	140/150
Cauliflower	180/210
Cucumbers (large)	120/150
Cucumbers (small)	200/220
Dates	400/550
Eggplant	250/280
Garlic	530/580
Groundnut	260/280
Lemons	120/140
Lettuce (per piece)	130/150
Mallows	320/350
Marrow (large)	90/100
Mayrose (small)	230/250
Onion (dry)	280/320
Onion (green)	250/280
Orange (Clementine)	250/280
Peach	300/350
Pepper (hot)	300/350
Pepper (sweet)	300/350
Potato	320/350
Radicchio	150/180
Salads	450/500
Spinach	200/250
Tomatoes	380/420
Watermelons	300/350

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swieif, Tel. 810/40

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 827/25

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624/50.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637/440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661/757

Terrassa Church Tel. 623/66

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623/541.

Anglican Church Tel. 625/383, Tel. 628/543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771/31.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772/261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771/751.

Amman International Church Tel. 605/26.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 512/26.

News in Arabic

Laura and Disorder

Horsemen Riding by "A Birth and a Death"

News in English

Alice to Nowhere

Play

PROGRAMME ONE

Koran Programme review

Children's programme

Educational programme

News summary in Arabic

Cabo news message

Local programme

News in Arabic

News in Arabic

News in Arabic

Play

PROGRAMME TWO

La Valse en Carton</



**THE HOLY MONTH OF RAMADAN** has come to an end. The month-long event was another occasion for Muslims to prove their faith and empathise with the poor. El Muzahar, the one who wakes us up every night with his drum, will pass to collect his dues. The poor will be treated with their share of money. Housewives will show one more time their skills in the culinary art to the family gathered around the table (maybe the nicest thing about Ramadan) and, the biggest event of them all, everybody will be shopping for 'Eid. New clothes, toys, coffee (for the traditional black coffee), sweets. The marketplaces will be once again bustling with activity (to the shopkeepers' delight) and then things will revert to natural.

## NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

### Prince Hassan meets Patriarch Sabbah

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday received the Patriarch of the Roman Catholic church Michel Sabbah and reviewed with him the current situation in Jerusalem following the Zionist attack on the Roman Catholic Patriarch and the occupation by Israeli settlers of Saint John's Hospice in Jerusalem. The talks also dealt with the continuing suffering of the Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories as a result of the oppressive Israeli measures. Prince Hassan stressed the importance of achieving complete coordination and cooperation between Muslim and Christian institutions to safeguard the holy Islamic and Christian places and the Arab property in Jerusalem. The meeting was attended by President of Bethlehem University Monsignor Raouf Najjar.

### Prime minister receives ambassadors

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran received Tuesday the ambassadors of Algeria, the Soviet Union, Japan and Sudan to Jordan. Bilateral relations between Jordan and these countries were reviewed in the separate meetings.

### Arab to visit West Germany

AMMAN (J.T.) — At the invitation of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Federal Republic of Germany, a six-member delegation to the Lower House of Parliament led by its speaker, Suleiman Arar, will pay a visit to the Federal Republic of Germany, from May 5th to 13th, 1990. On the programme are meetings with the president of the Bundestag (Federal Lower House) and the chairman of several of its committees, with the president of the Bundesrat (Federal Upper House), high-ranking personalities in the Federal Chancellery and in the Government, and visits to Mainz, capital of the Federal Land of Rhineland-Palatinate (parliament and government), as well as to Berlin (West and East).

### Economic crimes draft law not finalised

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masaadeh, who is also chairman of the special legal committee, formed by the Prime Ministry to formulate the draft economic sanctions act, Tuesday said the draft had not been finalised and the committee would be called to discuss the ideas and proposals put forward to the Prime Ministry. Masaadeh was referring to an article published in the Arabic daily Al Dustour in April 16, which said that the draft economic sanctions act had been finalised. He said the newspaper had published a proposed working paper, which was not approved by the ad hoc committee, in charge of enacting the legislations on economic crimes.

### Muslim society invites Shbeihat to U.S.

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament member Laith Shbeihat will leave next Saturday to the United States on a several-day visit upon an invitation from the Muslims of North America Society. Shbeihat will deliver a series of lectures and participate in seminars in several cities of the U.S. Shbeihat is expected to talk about the parliamentary experience in Jordan at the Arab-American leaderships conference which will convene in Washington between May 10 and 12.

### Jordan to attend talks on environment

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in a conference on the Mediterranean Sea environment to start in Cyprus Wednesday.

The four-day conference will discuss the issue of discarding in the sea waste which threatens marine life and breaches agreements signed in the field. Jordan was invited to the conference in its quality of a country that could be affected by the Mediterranean environment and as one of the member states in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden Pact which aims at conserving the environment. Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Karim Al Dughami left Amman for Cyprus Tuesday to represent Jordan in the conference.

### Jopetrol exports rose against imports

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Petroleum Refinery company has set a record of sales of locally produced engine and lubricating oils versus imported oil, according to a spokesman for the company. The source said the refinery had sold 17,358,815 tonnes of engine and lubrication oil, against 7,572,781 tonnes of imported oil, thus export getting a share of 70 per cent of the total sales, compared to 30 per cent import. The sources attributed the increase in the sales of Jopetrol oil to the trust Jordanian citizens have in the high quality of Jopetrol oils. The price of Jopetrol oil is 30 per cent to 50 per cent less than the price of imported oil.

### 21 run for election in Kraimeh

NORTH JORDAN VALLEY (Petra) — A total of 21 contestants are running in the elections of Kraimeh municipal council to take place May 5. Kraimeh area has an electorate of 5,235 people.

### Karak celebrates Earth Day

KARAK (Petra) — Karak cooperative's department Tuesday celebrated Earth Day. The society organised a programme of activities which aimed at acquainting the public with the dangers of environmental pollution and its effect on people, animals and plants. The programme which was held in cooperation with cooperative societies and youth clubs in Karak governorate included films and lectures.

### Cooperative to boost women's role

TAFILEH (Petra) — A multi-purpose cooperative society has recently been established in Tafileh to help women find jobs and highlight their role in the overall socio-economic development of the governorate. The cooperative seeks to advance the status of women, by giving them chance to engage in productive and income-generating projects, and providing them with the necessary knowledge and skills to set up small projects, requiring low capital but having high feasibility.

### Exhaust fumes tested

AMMAN (Petra) — Air Pollution Department at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) in cooperation with drivers and vehicles Licensing Department examined fumes coming out of vehicles exhausts. The primary results of the tests showed that some fumes were harmful to health and to the environment. One of the most important factors that contributes to increasing exhaust fumes is the lack of periodic maintenance to the vehicle's engine. The experiment comes as part of RSS celebrations of Earth Day.

### Budget for Musheirfa approved

KARAK (Petra) — Karak acting governor Mazen Al 'Ouran approved the budget of Al Musheirfa municipal council. The budget is worth JD 10,000.

## Civil Service Commission follows up reinstatement

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Service Commission's President Khalid Radaih Tuesday said the commission had received 307 requests for reinstatement from civil servants who had been dismissed from their posts for political reasons.

He said the commission, in implementation of the government's decision to reinstate civil servants, had prepared a list with their names and submitted it to the Prime Ministry requesting their reinstatement in accordance with the civil service regulation in force.

He pointed out that the number of requests received by the commission does not include those who were dismissed from their jobs with the Ministry of Education.

"However a total of 91 out of 307 applicants have got the green light for reinstatement," he said.

Radaih also said that the number of people who applied for reinstatement at the Ministry of Education was 293 and that out of this number 191 had already been reinstated.

He voiced the commission's keen interest in directing special attention to those people and pledged to find a solution for their problem before the end of the year.



Her Majesty Queen Noor, the honorary president of the Friends of Patients Society, met Tuesday with the administrative committee of the society at the Ma'wa palace (Petra photo).

## Friends of Patients Society outlines objectives and plans

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein, the Honorary President of the Friends of Patients Society, met with the administrative committee of the newly formed society at the Ma'wa Palace.

During the meeting H.H. Sharifa Thiraya, the president and founder of the society, delivered a speech in which she thanked Her Majesty for accepting the honorary presidency of the society, established on January 17, 1990.

## Banking symposium calls for more banks' involvement in Arab economy

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Banks Union has called on all Arab banks to contribute to easing the burden of Arab indebtedness, financing trade and assisting in developing Arab capital, which will, in turn enhance the role of banks in easing indebtedness and increasing commercial exchange.

At a specialised symposium held recently in Cairo the union called for adhering to the criteria laid down by Pal International Committee.

The criteria lay the

foundations for calculating and determining the capital adequacy ratio.

Director of the Arab Institute of Banking studies Adnan Al Hindi, who has just come back from Cairo, said the union adopted a number of recommendations designed to address the negative aspects of Pal committee decisions on capital adequacy ratio.

He added that the symposium

called on the Arab Monetary Fund to prepare the necessary studies for developing the Arab capital and requested the board of governors of the Central Arab Banks and the Arab Monetary Corporations to draw up a programme for financing inter-Arab trade.

Hindi said that one of the negative aspects of the Pal committee decisions was that they classified the world into high risk and low risk countries, and did not take into consideration the present and future economic situations of the Third World countries.

Hindi said the criteria was unfair because it helps the governments, institutions and banks in the industrialised world to obtain low cost funds, thus contributing to the unfair distribution of financial resources and adversely affecting the flow of funds to the Third World countries.

and low risk countries, and did not take into consideration the present and future economic situations of the Third World countries.

Hindi said that one of the negative aspects of the Pal committee decisions was that they classified the world into high risk

## Marketing yourself? Local firm says it can show you how

By Hana Darwaza  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "How to market yourself in the work force." One would think the ad comes from an American newspaper. It is not, it was found in our local papers.

An enterprising marketing company, "Push Marketing Company" has come up with a novel idea of offering courses dealing with contemporary practical topics, such as marketing oneself in the workforce and the scientific approach to rid oneself of psychological pressure in work and in life.

Trying to keep abreast of market trends, the Push Marketing Company decided to offer courses in sales and marketing, plus the new notion of offering courses that help convert nervousness into positive energy.

"We all get butterflies in our stomachs at one time or another; what we try to do is

help people manage these butterflies and convert them into a positive force pushing towards," Nafaa' Abu Nab, the company's president and chief executive officer told the Jordan Times in an interview.

Abu Nab, who worked his way through college in the U.S., selling door to door educational books, believes there are no disadvantages, only facts, and one's perception of them. This positive attitude is what they cannot do on their own, we specialise in services.

There is a joke about a blind man who wants to tell his deaf friend about the death of the latter's father, a difficult prospect at best. Push Marketing Company can help in such difficult situations," Abu Nab said.

According to Abu Nab, the courses, which have started on a wide scale this year, have met with a favourable response. In fact, some courses, such as sales and marketing had to be expanded to three sections because of high demand.

Most of the people who enrol in the company's courses are unemployed graduates in their twenties and early thirties with an occasional older person. What they all have in

common is a desire to find employment. Some students who were interviewed agreed that they were furthering their chances of finding employment.

The Push Marketing Company "tries to connect things for people," Abu Nab told the Jordan Times. We offer people what they cannot do on their own, we specialise in services. There is a joke about a blind man who wants to tell his deaf friend about the death of the latter's father, a difficult prospect at best. Push Marketing Company can help in such difficult situations," Abu Nab said.

Launched in August 1988, the company does feasibility studies, helps other companies market their products in Jordan and abroad, tries to help its students find suitable employment, does consultancy work, and specialises in marketing services.

Abu Nab believes the youth are Jordan's main asset. "This sector of the population, with

proper education and training, can help the country's economy tremendously, and is the hope for the future," he says.

He adds that there is a need to get away from the centralised figure of the general manager who holds the absolute power of decision-making and responsibilities.

Abu Nab believes that in order to function effectively, companies should delegate responsibilities to well educated and properly trained young people, thus giving them incentive to become self-motivated.

This is where push marketing and other training institutions can play a vital role.

Push Marketing Company is offering several courses while last one to two weeks. The prices range from JD 10-25. Those interested can visit and sit in at one of the courses to get a general idea free of charge. The courses are offered periodically according to demand.

## Accord reached in principle

(Continued from page 1)  
machinery used in oil exploration.

Jordan has found gas in the Al Risheh area in the Kingdom's northeastern desert border with Iraq with an estimated reserve of 400 billion cubic metres. So far, oil has been discovered in minimal quantities, with production between 300 and 400 barrels per day compared with a daily consumption of 60,000 barrels.

Several international oil companies have concession for oil exploration in the Kingdom, but none has so far reported discovery of commercial quantities.

The agreement, which will be renewed automatically every year, also stipulates that Iraq will offer technical assistance to Jordan in the areas of oil exploration, seismicological surveys, oil drilling, geological studies, exchange of expertise and training. Taher said Iraq would also provide Jordan with drilling equipment and other

machinery used in oil exploration.

Representative David Bonier said Congress should be debating the Likud party's aid to Jewish settlers in the Christian sector of Jerusalem "while lying, lying about the action."

He also said lawmakers should be discussing the wisdom of approving \$400 million in loan guarantees to house new settlers.

The resolution was nothing more than an institutional press release," Representative David Bonier said. Congress should be debating the Likud party's aid to Jewish settlers in the Christian sector of Jerusalem "while lying, lying about the action."

He also said lawmakers should be discussing the wisdom of approving \$400 million in loan guarantees to house new settlers.

The resolution is an affront to the Arab community, the Christian community and the Greek Orthodox community... we should be seeking to bring the parties together instead of polarising the situation," Bonier said.

## Settlers

(Continued from page 1)  
risks for peace, they need to know the United States will stand by them, not pull the rug out from under them."

But representative David Obey said any attempt by Congress to give formal support to Israel's claim that Jerusalem is its capital would unnecessarily inflame an already hostile situation.

"For America to play constructive role, we need to have good relations with a number of parties in the Middle East, not just one... we must be credible to all parties, not just one."

And Obey said the non-binding

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

جordan Times جريدة عربية مستقلة ناشرها مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors: MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General: MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief: GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation, University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Faximile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

## Executions are not the answer

IT WAS quite ironic for Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir, the Sudanese military leader, to swiftly execute 26 officers for trying to do exactly what he himself did a year ago — seize power. At a first glance, the obvious difference is that Bashir succeeded in his bid when he took power in a bloodless coup which ousted the democratically-elected government of Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi last year. But this is not the only difference. For unlike his former colleague Abdul Rahman Swarreddin, Bashir, it seems, has no plans to step down and hand over power to a democratic government, as he indeed made clear on Monday.

While democracy flourishes elsewhere in the world, the notion of tolerance for opposition and dissent seems to have missed Sudan's military regime which appears intent on keeping the strings of power and ruling the strife-torn, famine-stricken and disaster-laden country. The fact that 26 officers, some of them senior retired servicemen, were executed in cold blood is a clear indication that opposition to the 15-member military council headed by Bashir is not all that weak. Another indication of a significant opposition is that the plotters were executed after summary trials without the due process of the law.

To begin with, there can be no justification whatsoever to the decision to execute the dissidents. The capture of the "plotters," who had clearly not fired a single shot, would have been enough to abort the coup. Furthermore, the use of execution as a method of governing violates the very values which make any regime worth protecting. The Sudanese general, if not for the sake of human rights, then for the sake of his credibility as a leader who claims to have been seeking dialogue with dissidents and opposition figures in his country, would have been wiser to have thought twice before the executions. The fact that the execution of 26 officers comes after a series of earlier executions, sometimes for small or unsubstantiated offences and crimes, means that everything is not well with our Sudanese brothers. That sister country of ours needs no more bloodshed to achieve stability and security and much needed progress. It certainly does not need another Jasfar Numeiri to ruin what is left of it. What Sudan urgently needs is a solid step towards true popular participation and democracy in governing themselves and running the affairs of their country. Eastern Europe and other Third World countries, including Jordan, have taken giant leaps forward in this regard. Why not Sudan, and why not all the other countries that still choose to ignore the basic principles of democratic rule and government?

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily on Tuesday cast doubt on the possibility of the formation of an Israeli government led by Shimon Peres, the Labour leader, and said that his success on the whole was not bound to lead to an Israeli withdrawal from Arablands. The paper said that failure by Shamir's party to lead a coalition government is bound to pave the way for the extremist elements in the Likud bloc to lead Israel in a course opposed to any peace in the region. The paper noted that such development, which is quite imminent will not doubt lead to further tension and the creation of an explosive situation in the Middle East. Indeed, no Israeli leader can commit his group to permanent peace since talk about peace with the Arabs is considered a crime within the Israeli society which is oriented towards aggression and expansion, the paper added. The paper expected Yitzhak Shamir to be entrusted with the formation of a new government in Israel with the help of the religious parties which had deceived Shimon Peres into believing in their good intentions and support for his own efforts to lead a government. In view of this situation, the paper said, it seems unreasonable for the Arabs to remain impulsive and incapable of taking some action before it is too late.

The release of an American hostage from Lebanon is regarded by Tareq Masarweh as the beginning of the resumption of full collaboration between Iran and the United States in all matters directed against the Arab Nation. The columnist says that Iran has secured the release of Robert Polhill in Beirut where its own group had been holding in a show of reconciliation between Washington and Tehran, because the latter cannot help collaborating with the United States to achieve its own ends and to seek more allies in the West, working against the Arabs in general and Iraq in particular. The writer notes that Iran is only by name registered as member in the Islamic Organisation Conference and the Non-Aligned Movements, and has done nothing to help the Palestinians in their fight against Israeli occupation, despite its bragging about such help all the time. He notes that Iran is involved in criminal activities in Beirut and southern Lebanon, and is doing all it can to abort Arab agreements on reconciliation in Lebanon. The writer says that Tehran is ready to extend a hand to Washington and other allies including Israel as long as they can help it maintain its hostility for the Arabs and achieve by political means what it had failed to achieve by force.

Al Dostour daily newspaper on Tuesday commented on the joint Islamic-Christian action in Jerusalem and the consensus on closing all holy places in Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Nazareth in protest against Israel's practices against the holy places in occupied Palestine. The paper said that the decision was a clear and loud cry to the Christian world and an appeal to the Christians and Muslims all over the world to come to the help of the Palestinian people trying to defend their holy shrines. The decision clearly proves that Israel is in no power to protect but only to desecrate these holy places with the help of the Jewish settlers and with backing from official circles in Israel and in the West, the paper continued.

## Economic Forum

# Currency devaluation: Myth and fact

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

CURRENCY devaluation is one of the weapons of economic policy but can really be a lethal one if not handled with extreme care. Otherwise, it stands a very good chance of backfiring as it usually does in developing countries.

In advanced countries, the story is different. The basic aim of devaluation is to improve the external sector through checking imports and boosting exports. An advanced country cannot afford to achieve that through direct control of its external trade without risking trades war with other great economic powers and therefore cannot get away with this policy. The alternative is currency devaluation which, under the prevailing international system of floating exchange rates, takes the form of letting the currency depreciate. Because its currency is freely convertible, an advanced country will still be able to use its weakened, or de-

valued, currency to settle its international transactions and does not face a foreign exchange bottleneck.

The case of a developing country is drastically different. The devaluation sparks waves of speculation against its currency and thus triggers capital flight. Artificial supply of local currency and artificial demand for foreign currencies, that is demand and supply not justified by actual economic transactions, are created and lead to further pressures on the local currency which is devalued again and again. In the process, foreign exchange reserves are run down and thereafter the developing country faces the staying dilemma of foreign exchange shortage. The absence of nationwide economic discipline and the consequential absence of a mechanism to control prices lead to inflation not only through the understandable instant increase in

import prices but also through the unjustifiable and unproportionate markup of the prices of domestic inputs in the absence of that mechanism. This erodes the price advantage emanating from devaluation, which is supposed to be enjoyed by exports. The measure has backfired.

The Jordanian dinar was devalued in 1988. As is customary with currency devaluation in developing countries, the initial devaluation led to overvaluation. It was assumed that the dinar was "overvalued" by up to 20 per cent but the "freed" dinar sank by around 40 per cent to 70 per cent. At 670 fils for the US dollar, the present dinar is worth half its 1987 dollar value (and forget now about its purchasing power). The insistent talk about an overvalued dinar and the accompanying rumours regarding its imminent devaluation in the pre-

1988 era created an artificial demand for foreign currencies in anticipation of devaluation and this helped to deplete our foreign exchange reserves. When devaluation struck, those rumours had been substantiated and triggered a massive supply of dinars against foreign currencies. The dinar collapsed far beyond the "overvaluation" mark specified by devaluation mongers. That collapse was responsible for the sharp rise in living costs, which was in turn the main reason responsible for 1989-April riots.

We have kept on preaching the wisdom and crucial need for making the due distinction between developed (i.e. advanced) and developing (i.e. less developed) countries when tailoring economic policy prescriptions. To overlook the difference between these two categories and ask, or expect, a developing economy to behave and act like an advanced one

can be likened to asking a child to perform the tasks of a man. Currency devaluation is a glaring, but sad, example.

Some observers and officials maintain that the devaluation of the Jordanian dinar is working. Every Jordanian citizen sincerely hopes so. But the trouble with this judgement is that it is supported by a very strange evidence, namely our export performance. The main piece of evidence widely and wildly quoted here is the growth rate of our domestic exports. It has been said that these exports rose by 12 per cent in dollar terms in 1989 (i.e. after devaluation) and that this growth testifies to the success of devaluation. But hold on. In 1988, that is before devaluation, our domestic exports rose by 30.5 per cent (in dollar terms). Adjust this percentage for the 1988 exchange rate fluctuations and you still come up with a rate much

healthier than the widely and widely quoted rate of 1989. In 1987, domestic exports managed to grow at 10 per cent without the power of devaluation.

It is not our intention to dwell now on the arithmetic of devaluation, but we must mention that 1989 export performance was fully attributed to phosphate and potash exports which are priced in dollars and have nothing to do with devaluation. Put aside this category of exports and you will find that the rest of exports actually shrank at a substantial rate in 1989.

All this reminds me of a leading article published by The Wall Street Journal on May 5, 1989, in which the author wrote: "History is replete with nations that have ruined themselves by devaluing their currencies in an attempt to expand their exports."

## Tolerance is needed on both sides

The Soviet Union's Middle East policy has varied from unconditional support of only Israel to unconditional support of only the Arabs. Dmitry Zgersky, writing in the Moscow-based New Times, reviews the relationship.

WHAT IS written in our books about the founding of the state of Israel is accepted by us as plain and indisputable truth; all of the blame lies with British imperialism and world Zionism. In his book, "The Palestine Problem and the Middle East Crisis," published in 1981, Vladimir Kiselev writes for instance: "The hasty proclamation of the state of Israel on Palestinian territory was like adding fuel to the flames. The Arab League immediately urged its members to dispatch regular troops to Palestine for repulsing the Zionist invasion."

Leaving through Pravda's back copies

One may, naturally, ask: "Why did the Soviet Union recognise the Zionist aggressors and support the idea of establishing the state of Israel?" None of the present writers provides a convincing answer to this question. In any case, what they say is utterly incomprehensible, in my opinion.

My curiosity was excited by veteran diplomats and journalists who claimed that Stalin was very interested in the founding of the state of Israel. According to them, Stalin said, in a conversation with Tito, that he viewed Israel as a pain in the imperialists' neck and therefore permitted a mass emigration of Jews to Palestine and even organised the training of officers for the Israeli army.

I rummaged through the New Times library archives, but found no material about that period. The only thing I learned was that the material was destroyed, as it had been prescribed in the secret lists sent by the censors. Such lists were regularly sent to the magazine, and books and other periodicals were burned in turn when the need arose to rewrite history in a new way. Strangely enough, the Pravda files have remained.

It was unusual to read 40-year-old news. In Palestine, the situation developed from worse to bad. The Jews informed the world of Arab atrocities. It is possible that the Arabs reported on atrocities committed by Jews, in the same manner, though I did not find news of this kind in Pravda. But it is one thing when the Deir Yassin massacre is described by Menachem Begin in his memoirs as a brutal provocation of Arab soldiers, in which peaceful villagers died, and it is another thing when the events in Palestine are described in Pravda from the same positions.

The Soviet Union backed the idea of dividing Palestine in accordance with the U.N. resolution. The Jews agreed to such a division, which retained Jerusalem's international status. On May 15, 1948, Israel was pro-

claimed an independent state, and on the same day it was invaded by seven Arab states: Trans-Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Egypt.

Here is what Pravda wrote on May 30, 1948: "The leaders of the notorious Arab League do not conceal the fact that the aim of military operations undertaken by Arab states is to destroy the state of Israel. Arab states are trying by armed force to prevent the Jewish people of Palestine from exercising their right to national self-determination, to their independent statehood. The actions of Arab countries can be described only as an unprovoked aggression encroaching on the Jewish people's lawful rights and flouting the basic principles of the U.N. Charter."

Also untenable is the argument of the Arab League leaders that the Arab countries' crusade against the Jewish state has the aim of 'restoring the law and order' in Palestine and removing the 'threat' posed by the newly founded state of Israel to the Arab peoples. To depict several hundreds of thousands of Israelis as 'threat' to millions of Arabs living in the Middle East means to defy facts and common sense."

On March 3, 1949, Jacob Malik, the Soviet delegate to the United Nations, made the following statement: "As it is well known, the Israeli government is a peace-loving government, which loyally complied with the U.N. requirements, in particular, with the Security Council order... Statements have been made on the Arab refugee problem. But why should the state of Israel be blamed for the existence of that problem?"

Let's compare these quotations with what Nikita Khrushchev said in the Supreme Soviet (parliament) on Dec. 29, 1955. "It is necessary to condemn," he stressed, "the actions of the state of Israel, which has from the outset threatened its neighbours and pursued a hostile policy towards them."

What was the reason for such a change in Soviet policy towards Israel and the Arab countries? The point is, in my opinion, that Tel Aviv set its sights on establishing closer ties with Washington precisely at the time when the cold war began. The Soviet leaders' reasoning in those years was rather simple: friends and enemies were determined by the global confrontation with the United States. Those who sided with Washington were considered Moscow's enemies, and vice versa.

So, when Moscow was on friendly terms with Tel Aviv, the Soviet media reported on any Arab action as aggression which Israel was compelled to repulse.

## Shamir comes under attack

(Continued from page 1) for preliminary negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians.

Shamir maintained Monday had not agreed to accept Baker's proposal or had he made any deviations from the election initiative approved by the government last May.

"At this moment, I am not planning anything new. I think we are still at the beginning and we have to go in the same path

As Moscow's relations with Washington deteriorated, Arab countries became friends of the Soviet Union, and the tone of Soviet reports on events in the Middle East changed accordingly. The Soviet media kept silent when Arab countries undertook military operations against Israel, whereas Tel Aviv's retaliatory attack was pictured as "another act of aggression on the part of Israel." Such reporting accounts, to a considerable extent, for the appearance of books about the savage essence of Zionism, which

ists on both sides.

Taking an unbiased view

The fact is that aggression remains aggression, regardless of the perpetrator. For instance, Moscow had every reason to condemn the Anglo-Franco-Israeli invasion of Egypt in 1956, which claimed numerous civilian lives. In 1967, Israel attacked several Arab countries. In 1982, Lebanon was subjected to a massive attack undertaken by Israel. Israeli troops are now occupying Arab territories, killing rebels in

World War II and that, like the Berlin Wall, it must be destroyed. Qaddafi did not explain how he was going to wipe Israel out: physically, by way of genocide, or only by abolishing it as a state. I think it is a futile idea, fraught with the danger of a Third World War. Today it is simply impossible to eradicate a state, whether good or bad. However, Qaddafi is not the only one in the Arab World who advocates such an idea.

The Arabs have good cause to dislike Israel, as Israel has cause to dislike the Arabs. Each side has its weighty arguments. The Soviet Union has invariably adhered to the principle of listening to only one side of the conflict; first Israel and then the Arab. One need not be a prophet to say with confidence that a similar position will never lead to a just solution of the Palestinian problem.

The Arab population did not disappear, however. Israel was established as a state, though artificially. In keeping with the U.N. resolution of 1947, Palestine was divided into two — Arab and Jewish — states with clearly defined borders. And this could have settled the long dispute. Two hostile Semitic nations were divided by a frontier. Each of them received the opportunity to develop independently and live as good neighbours. But events took a different turn.

The 42-year experience of war and clashes has shown that it is impossible to wipe Israel off the face of the earth. The Palestine Liberation Organisation represented by Yasser Arafat has itself drawn such a conclusion. It should be remembered that the PLO is one of the parties in the conflict which has suffered most of all from the endless hostility and is now waging a struggle in the occupied territories. However, we should not disregard the forces standing apart from this struggle. Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi declared on Jan. 7 of this year that Israel, like the Berlin Wall, is a product of the

One can endlessly damn Israel for its aggressive policy and call for destroying it. However, this will not lead to peace in the region. If both sides in the conflict are sincerely concerned about peace, they should admit not only the opponent's mistakes, but also their own mistakes.

To get to the root of the matter, one should conduct a close examination of it. The magnitude of the Middle East problem can be assessed only if the opinions of both sides are taken into account. But this is the subject of another article.

## Mutt'n'Jeff



## Andy Capp



## Peanuts



## OUT OF FOCUS

### Season of sour grapes

Adnan Saeed Aqil

THE OTHER DAY, I met an old friend of mine hanging around with a dejected look in the lobby of one of Amman's hotels. The man, an also-ran in the Nov. 8 elections, seemed to have aged years in a matter of months, and I was naturally concerned. What was the matter? I inquired. "Well, I'm tired of running around," he said. But that does not account for his health situation, I pointed out.

He sat back, stared at the wall for a moment, and heaved a sigh. "I don't seem to get anywhere," he said. "You know, I did not do well in the elections." To me, it was the understatement of the year, but still I nodded in sympathy.

"And then came the union elections," he continued. "Again the same story. I spent a lot of money on mansabs and drinks, but somehow could not get a seat in the committee. Talk of ingratiation, and some of them could set world records."

Knowing him, I hastened to pitch in: "Sure, the elections were rigged, weren't they?"

"Do I have to spell it out?" he looked at me accusingly. "Of course, they were rigged. Otherwise, how can you account for my defeat?"

I had an easy and simple answer to that, but preferred to keep it to myself. All I could say was you win some, you lose some. "I fail to understand something," he said. "People don't seem to realize what is good for them." Well, it was because people knew what was good for them that he had that dejected look on his face, I wanted to say but thought better.

In any event, with his "political" career in shambles, what was his next move? I was curious.

"I was betting on being named to the Royal Commission on the national charter," he said. "I was not even called in. I am surprised at the kind of people they have in the panel. But a couple of dozen of them together and still they will fall short of my full talent."

"You know, many people are complaining about it," he said. "About what, him being not in the panel? I asked. "That's besides the point," he replied, getting ready for a long debate. But he suddenly remembered something, got up and said: "I have to rush. See you later," and made a quick exit.

I was tapped on the shoulder, and it was another friend. "Where did your friend go?" he asked. Before I could take another breath, I heard myself saying: "Looking for sour grapes at the Widadat market, I am sure."

### Sri Lankan report links unrest to poverty

By Donatus de Silva

A REPORT recently published by a government commission into the causes of unrest in Sri Lanka found that the roots of dissent lay in a sense of alienation and frustration felt by poor urban and rural youth.

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — A government commission probing the causes of youth unrest and violence in Sri Lanka has highlighted the gap between rich and poor as a major concern of militant groups in the country.

The commission's findings have a relevance beyond Sri Lanka's borders since so many developing countries have similar or worse social problems and economic conditions: high percentage of young people; remote and unresponsive bureaucracies; corruption and nepotism; and governments blind to the problems of the powerless rural poor.

The report comes in the wake of a dying insurrection in central and southern Sri Lanka by the Janata Vimukthi Peramuna (the People's Liberation Front, JVP), in which thousands perished.

The seven-member commission, appointed by the Sri Lankan government last year, was made up of representatives of both the majority Sinhalese and minority Tamil communities. It consisted of two university vice-chancellors, a school principal, a bank manager, a community development worker, the head of an adult studies institute, and a journalist.

The commission found that most disgruntled youth involved in the insurrection were of rural origin, coming from villages where more than 75 per cent of the country's population lives. Nearly 45 per cent of Sri Lanka's population of 16.5 million are under the age of 24.

The report states frankly that the problem is not so much the youth themselves, but derives from a political, economic and education system that exploits the rural and urban poor.

Many young people complained to the commissioners that there was no mechanism through which they could air their grievances and obtain redress. Their resort to armed uprising was sparked by conviction that they were unable to make any impact on government policy.

Rural youth, in particular, resented the English-educated élite old-boy network, which exercises power and enjoys prestige in the country, says the report. This network, buttressed by connections within high families, determines employment, social advancement, or even the selection of candidates at elections.

Young people were cynical about the political parties which are dominated by a handful of rich and powerful families, and had no faith or interest in joining them.

The commissioners point out that the JVP was able to cash in on the feeling of alienation and marginalization among rural youth. The insurrection was seen

By Robert J. Samuelson

JOHNNY wears disposable diapers, and that's not an environmental disaster. By Johnny, I mean John Samuelson, who joined his sister Ruth (5) and brother Michael (3) eight weeks ago. I also mean most of the other 9 million American babies under 30 months who wear disposable diapers. I do not feel guilty that my wife and I use them, and the idea that we are destroying the planet for our children is mostly nonsense.

Disposable diapers are an instructive metaphor for the exaggerations of modern environmentalism. We all should want to be good environmentalists, but just what that means in practice isn't always easy to say. The tendency these days is to call many different problems "environmental," as if the label — all by itself — implies an impending catastrophe whose solution is a moral imperative. "Environmentalism" thus becomes a loose collection of diverse concerns, with few distinctions made about whether some problems are more serious than others.

To call disposable diapers an environmental problem is to slide into this ambiguous and random alarmism. Disposable diapers are about garbage; that's ordinary garbage, not hazardous waste. Getting rid of our garbage is a problem and, in some places, a serious one. Mainly, it involves handling the trash at an acceptable cost. But this is not a crisis that threatens the earth's future, and even if it were, disposable diapers wouldn't matter much. The 15.8 billion used annually constitute less than 2 percent of all garbage.

These complexities are being lost in rising rhetoric. Disposable diapers have come to symbolize growing wastefulness, because most people still remember the era of reusable, cloth diapers. Although Procter & Gamble first marketed Pampers in 1961, the product didn't go national until 1970. (P & G says that disposables now account for 90 percent of diapers, up from 65 percent in 1960 and 25 percent in 1970.) Vermont Gov. Madeleine Kunin has proposed banning disposables, though her legislature probably won't go along. And Forbes maga-

zine recently lambasted them on its cover: "Can We Have A Cleaner Environment and Pampers Too?"

In fact, the symbolism is misleading. Our garbage problem is not primary the result of our becoming an increasingly throwaway society. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that the average American generates (after recycling) 3.3 pounds of garbage a day, only slightly higher than in 1970. The truth is that almost everything you probably believe about garbage is wrong, as archaeologist William Rathje, head of The Garbage Project at the University of Arizona, argues in December's *The Atlantic*.

You think plastic are the problem? Guess again. They account for about 8 percent of the garbage. Metals? They're about 9 percent. By contrast, paper represents 37 percent and yard waste 20 percent of garbage. Nor is today's problem especially bad historically. "Our society is filled with... reminders of waste," Rathje writes. "What we forget is everything that is no longer there to see... the 1,200 pounds per year of coal ash that every

American generated at home at the turn of the century... (and) the hundreds of thousands of dead horses that once had to be disposed of by American cities every year."

The problem today stems from shifting societal standards. Landfills now absorb more than three quarters of all garbage, and in a country as vast as ours, there's plenty of room for new ones. The trouble is that fewer communities want them, and tighter regulations are raising their costs. Between 1985 and 1988, average tipping fees — the cost of dumping a ton of garbage in a landfill — jumped from \$12 to \$27, reports the National Solid Wastes Management Association. Our task is to make landfills acceptable or find alternatives, from garbage prevention to recycling to incineration.

I have no quarrel with parents who prefer cloth diapers, as a rising minority apparently do. The National Association of Diaper Services reports its members' business is up about 40 percent in the past year. "I've never seen such a dramatic turnaround," says Jack Mogavero, president of Gener-

al Health Care Corporation, the largest diaper service. (Environmental debates tend to slide by these messy choices.)

My own hunch is that garbage is a lesser ill. To some extent, the problem — higher costs — is also the solution. As disposal costs rise, recycling becomes more attractive and economically viable. Carefully crafted recycling laws aid the process by lowering collection costs. In 1988, about 31 percent of all paper was collected and reused. By 1995, the paper industry estimates, that could rise to 40 percent. There will be more efforts to cope with yard waste through mass composting rather than using landfills.

Personally, I'm doing my part within the bounds of common sense. Just last week I brought a coffee mug into the office. This will cut my use of polystyrene cups by somewhere between 300 to 600 a year. I want the best possible world for my new son, who has a beguiling smile and a calming stare. Relax, Dad, I says. Being a worrier, I can't. I already have lots of concerns for his future. But the way we diaper is not among them. — Newsweek magazine.

## The way we diaper



Using new highly sensitive instruments produced in Germany, the German Meteorological Service in Offenbach can now easily detect radioactive decay

### New device to measure radiation

OFFENBACH — (INP) — With the use of highly sensitive instruments radiochemists working for the German Meteorological Service in Offenbach near Frankfurt am Main can now easily detect instances of radioactive decay equivalent to 1,000 millibecquerels as soon as they occur. This means that it is possible to measure nuclear decay taking place every ten seconds in one cubic metre of air containing  $27 \times 10^{24}$  molecules.

Since the accident at the Soviet nuclear power plant in Chernobyl on April 26, 1986, an interest has developed in

technologies of this kind among politicians and in the general public. Since that accident occurred, careful measurements have been carried out to the extent permitted by the current state of the art in electronics and chemistry. This is not exactly new territory for the Offenbach radiochemists and meteorologists. The data they gathered on radioactive contamination of the atmosphere due to atom bomb testing after World War II was just as bad as the data gathered on contamination caused by the Chernobyl disaster.

When the Chernobyl cloud reached the Federal Republic, the highly sensitive measuring instruments were pushed to the limit of their capacities. "Our task", says one of the scientists, "is to detect all types of radioactivity as early as possible, determine its source, and predict in which directions it is likely to spread, all of which is used to prepare warnings for the public." By 1992 Germany is expected to have 26 stations equipped with devices of this type. Other countries are beginning to show an interest in the instruments.

### We've Got Your Priorities Right

**AMRA HOTEL**  
**Pool & Tennis**  
**ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION PLEASE CALL:  
SALES OFFICE : TEL: 815071 EX.: 1519

**FORUM HOTELS INTERNATIONAL**  
A division of Intercontinental Hotels Corporation

## JORDAN MARKET PLACE

For all your:  
Packing,  
Air Freight Forwarding,  
Customs Clearance,  
Door-to-door Service,  
Ticketing and  
Reservation needs,  
please call:  
**AMIN KAWAR & SONS**

Abdel Hamid Sharaf Street  
Shmeisani  
P.O. Box 7800  
Amman, Jordan  
Tel. 604676. 604696

**LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO RENT IN WEST AMMAN**  
**CALL SOHA AT**  
Saudi Real Estate  
**687821/22**

**The First Class Hotel in Amman that has a Kitchenette in every room...!**  
**DAROTEL**  
Amman - Tel. 668193  
P.O. Box 9403 - Fax 602434  
Telex 23888 DAROTL JD  
Ideal Residence For  
Exatriates and  
Businessmen

**STUDIO HAIG**  
Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service  
Develop your colour film at our shop and get:  
\* **JUMBO photo size 30% larger**  
\* **Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm**

Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays Bank. Phone: 604642  
Swefeh tel: 823891

**EASTERN**  
PACKING  
DOOR-TO-DOOR SERVICES  
INTERNATIONAL FORWARDING  
AIR & SEA FREIGHT  
TEL: 621 775 FAX: 656 270  
TLX: 23 023 POB: 815 406  
AMMAN-JORDAN

**The Al Alali Palace Hotel**  
Daily Ramadan Iftar Buffet  
at Swimming Pool  
**AL ALALI**  
Roof Top Restaurant  
JD 7.000 for adults  
JD 3.500 for children  
For reservation call 550000-15

**RESTAURANT CHINA**  
The first & best  
Chinese Restaurant  
in Jordan  
1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near  
Ahliyyah Girls School  
Take away is available  
Open daily 12:00-3:30  
p.m.  
6:30-Midnight  
Tel. 638968

**MANDARIN**  
Chinese Restaurant  
The only typical Chinese  
cuisine in Amman.  
Chinese Flaming pot is available  
Take away available  
Open daily 12:00 - 15:30  
18:00 - 23:30  
Wadi Sagra Road - near Traffic  
Bridge  
Amman, Jordan  
Tel: 661922

**CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT**  
Mecca Street, Yarmouk  
Engineers' Housing  
Estate, near Kilo  
Supermarket  
Mongolian Barbeque for  
Lunch Friday only  
Tel: 618214  
Come and taste our  
specialties  
Open daily 12:00 - 3:30  
p.m.  
6:30 - Midnight

**MEXICAN FOOD**  
Between 1st & 2nd  
Circle  
Jabal Amman  
Tel: 654205  
Open For  
LUNCH & DINNER

**TO ADVERTISE  
IN THIS SECTION  
CALL  
6671716-6701414  
EXL. 223**

## Eurotunnel seeks billions more to complete half-finished rail link

LONDON (AP) — Soaring costs are forcing Eurotunnel to seek an extra \$2.5 billion (\$4.1 billion) to finish the 50-kilometre rail link under the English Channel, the Anglo-French consortium said Monday.

Eurotunnel said half the tunnelling is now excavated, and vowed that the historic link between England and France will open on target in June 1993.

When operating, its trains will be able to take passengers from London to Paris in three hours.

Blaming higher construction and borrowing costs, the consortium said the project's total price tag has risen to as much as \$7.6 billion (\$12.4 billion).

Three years ago, when the project was launched, it said the cost was \$4.87 billion (\$7.9 billion).

Three years ago, when the project was launched, it said the cost was \$4.87 billion (\$7.9 billion).

The consortium blamed the increased costs primarily on added expenses forecast by its main contractor Trans-Manche link, which cited inflation and the need

to add workers to assure that the project is completed by its target date.

Eurotunnel's shareholders are betting on earnings and dividends far in the future. The British government is not contributing any funds to the project.

The consortium said it expected to increase its total available funds to \$8.5 billion (\$13.9 billion).

Eurotunnel Deputy Chairman Alastair Morton said in a statement: "We are going to raise more than we need so we don't have to go through this asking for extra finance exercise again."

Eurotunnel's shares, which fell 13 pence (\$0.21) to 560 pence (\$9.12) on London's stock exchange Monday morning, were up 12 pence (\$0.20) at \$83 pence (\$9.54) by the afternoon.

The company said it would sell up to £500 million (\$815 million) worth of new shares to its existing shareholders after it completed its talks with its bankers about expanding credit facilities.

Shareholders already have put up £1 billion (\$1.63 billion), and

to be a major task," he said, noting the number of ranks involved.

Morton said that with the actual tunnelling work half-finished, he was confident the extra funds could be raised.

"We have gone from having a third of the actual tunnelling work completed to having half of it done in just 16 weeks," Morton said.

The digging has improved recently because of increased reliability of boring machines and better ground conditions, said Alastair Fleming, managing director of consortium.

English and French workers, digging toward each other, have bored a total of 76 kilometres of tunnel, he said.

There actually are three tunnels, one train tunnel for each direction, and a service tunnel which is expected to be completed this autumn.

"We will break through at the end of November," Fleming said.

## Western insurers look to East European markets

PARIS (R) — It's tough selling insurance in West Europe these days — too many companies chasing too little business — so insurance firms are looking to Eastern Europe to sell policies on everything from car crashes to companies.

"At the moment, in the USSR and other East European countries, there is a tremendous influx of Western insurance companies and brokers," said Lars-Göran Nilsson, executive vice president at Swedish insurer Trygg-Hansa Forsäkrings AB.

Most major insurers say they have started to form alliances and map out strategies to tap a potentially under-insured market in East Europe's emerging market economies, according to a poll carried out by Reuters.

"The Eastern Bloc is one of the very few regions of the world where it is possible to find large growth capacity in the insurance sector," Nilsson said.

As East European economies develop, so will their insurance needs, the insurers said, not just life and household policies but those which cover corporate risks previously assured by the backing of the omnipresent state machine.

"With the conversion of enterprises in Eastern Europe to market economies... there will be a bigger need for traditional forms of corporate insurance... the big risks that until now were implicitly covered by the state," said Willy Hensberger, head of Germany and East Europe at Swiss Reinsurance Co.

The population of East Germany is likely to acquire more

material goods — cars, houses and so on — and we are looking to insure them," said a spokesman at Britain's Guardian Royal Exchange PLC.

But several said it would be five to 10 years before ventures in the region were profitable. They face a local lack of expertise in insurance, no legal framework for their business, political instability and non-convertible currencies.

"Income levels and living standards in these countries will first have to improve before the potential can be realised," said Juergen Giese, analyst at Citibank AG in Frankfurt.

France's Assurances Generale de France (AGF), Colonia and Allianz Holding AG of West Germany, Switzerland's Zurich Insurance Co. and Italy's Assurazioni Generali SPA are among the main firms targeting the region.

France's two major insurers have both recently announced partnerships in the East. AGF announced April 12 that it is close to a deal with Poland's Solidarity government to give it a share in the Polish insurance market.

"The aim is to set up a joint venture with Solidarity which would handle life insurance, multiple risks, car accidents and health," AGF said.

Last Friday, Union de Assurances de Paris announced a pact with Austrian insurer Bundesländer Versicherungs AG so both can expand into countries such as Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

Despite those deals, French insurers lag behind their West German competitors in lifting

the iron curtain, just as French companies trail the German rivals in other sectors.

West Germany's Allianz has already taken 49 per cent stakes in the East German state insurance company, Staatliche Versicherung Der DDR, and Hungary's formerly state-owned Hungaria Bizzotto.

Colonia is cooperating on health insurance with Poland's Westa and in Hungary with Atlas Reiseversicherungs AG, a travel insurance firm.

These early footholds in Eastern Europe will provide the firms with a significant advantage over slower competitors, Citibank's Giese said.

Swiss Zurich insurance is adopting a cautious approach. It will limit its involvement to backing its international industrial clients operating in the region, said Kurt Treichler.

Western insurers are tending to try to reestablish links in areas where they existed before the iron curtain went up, Trygg-Hansa's Nilsson noted.

His firm was taken aim largely at the Baltic states neighbouring Sweden, Finnish insurers have links with the Soviet Union, West German companies are concentrating on East Germany and France and Italy are eyeing southern countries.

The more advanced Eastern countries like East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Hungary promise the greatest rewards, the insurers said.

Those with devastated economies, such as Romania and Bulgaria, naturally hold fewer attractions.

## U.S. hopes for Soviet trade pact this week

PARIS (R) — The chief U.S. negotiator in trade talks with the Soviet Union said Tuesday he hoped to complete a deal with Moscow this week despite expected U.S. reprisals against the Soviet crackdown on Lithuania.

U.S. Deputy Trade Representative Julius Katz, asked in a telephone interview if he expected to wrap up negotiations with the Soviet Union this week, said: "That's my plan and my hope."

Katz, head U.S. negotiator, spoke to Reuters shortly after arriving from the United States for the fourth round of trade talks with the Soviet Union on a bilateral trade deal that could lead to Washington's granting Moscow trade privileges.

The negotiations were launched after the summit meeting between Presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev of Malta last December. They have gone smoothly through three previous rounds, but have assumed greater political importance since Moscow imposed an economic embargo on Lithuania last week.

U.S. officials said Monday President Bush was expected to punish Moscow by withholding certain trade and economic benefits.

It is unlikely to happen when finance ministers of the CFA (Communauté Financière Africaine) zone meet in Libreville, Gabon, on Thursday and Friday.

"They will probably try everything else possible to resolve budget problems and reduce the strain on public finances... I don't see any announcement on devaluation coming out of the CFA zone meeting this week," said one senior banker.

Traditional arguments against devaluation are that the CFA franc's fixed exchange rate and convertibility, rare attributes for a currency in Africa, has contributed to political stability and prosperity in a region of the world's poorest continent.

CFA status

U.S. and Soviet negotiators are

trying to reach a trade agreement that under U.S. law is required before Washington can grant Moscow most favoured nation (MFN) trade status, a privilege long sought by the Soviet Union.

MFN status would lower U.S. tariffs on Soviet exports and make Moscow eligible for U.S. loans to buy American equipment and modernise its economy.

A senior U.S. trade negotiator said in March at the third round of talks in Vienna that MFN "will provide them (the Soviet side) with substantially increased market opportunities."

Bilateral trade, valued at \$4.9 billion last year, is dominated by U.S. exports, particularly of grain.

Washington has withheld MFN status from Moscow since 1974 to punish it for restrictions on emigration, especially by Soviet Jews.

Bush has said he will grant Moscow MFN status provided the Soviet Union passes a law liberalising emigration. But U.S. officials said they did not know when the Soviet parliament might adopt such a law.

The trade agreement would guarantee U.S. products access to the Soviet market and protect U.S. intellectual property such as patents and copyrights, U.S. officials said.

It would also provide for direct access to Soviet customers and improved facilities for U.S. businessmen in the Soviet Union, and protect the U.S. market against a surge of imports from the reforming Soviet economy.

Both sides have been trying to reach an accord before a summit meeting scheduled between Bush and Gorbachev from May 30 to June 3 in the United States.

The increased project aid means Jakarta will have to find more of its own money.

One economist said aid overall was actually declining in real terms because of the high content of the depreciating yen.

Indonesia has asked Japan for the equivalent of only \$1.8 billion this year after last year's 2.4 billion, with the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank expected to make up the shortfall, said another.

The concern of one economist was that a series of events including low oil prices could combine to hurt the economy.

These were notably the possibility of a drought this year and a likely flattening out of non-oil export growth without substantial new foreign investment.

## Oil prices could limit Indonesia's use of aid

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia, worried a new-look Eastern Europe would steer off with its aid, appears likely to receive another record amount from donors.

But economists said Monday that fixing oil prices, by cutting government revenue, could stop Indonesia using some of that aid.

The main effect of lower oil prices in Indonesia is on the budget rather than the balance of payments," said one.

In most of the aid to Jakarta, which is tied to specific projects, the foreign donor will sign over the money only when Indonesia has put up its contribution.

If Jakarta, one of the world's biggest aid receivers and debtors, does not have enough money to fund its share, the project may have to be shelved.

Indonesia, the only Asian member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), was burned twice in the 1980s by plunging oil prices and has since become very conservative about predicting its likely impact on the economy.

"I've been sitting here for two or three months hearing people tell me it was too low," said one economist of the \$16.50 a barrel forecast made in January in Indonesia's budget for the year starting this month.

The country's major crude oil, Minas, is currently quoted 50 cents below that.

"Indonesia had the luxury of being conservative about the oil price in the budget due to the success of non-oil (exports)," said another.

Saddled with huge foreign debts and a devalued currency from previous oil price collapse, Indonesia has tried with considerable success to switch export revenue away from fuels, which a few years ago accounted for most of the total.

Oil and natural gas now account for only a third.

While this means it would take a bigger oil price drop to hurt the balance of payments, economists said the threat was to the budget whose deficit is covered by foreign aid.

The World Bank, the biggest supplier of aid to Indonesia after Japan, has made preliminary recommendations that the aid donors pledge a record \$4.5 billion in 1990-91 at the June meeting compared to 4.3 billion last year, one economist said.

But there will be more aid earmarked for projects and less for united special assistance, which should drop to \$1.2 billion of the total from 1.8 billion last year, one economist said.

The increased project aid means Jakarta will have to find more of its own money.

One economist said aid overall was actually declining in real terms because of the high content of the depreciating yen.

Indonesia has asked Japan for the equivalent of only \$1.8 billion this year after last year's 2.4 billion, with the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank expected to make up the shortfall, said another.

The concern of one economist was that a series of events including low oil prices could combine to hurt the economy.

These were notably the possibility of a drought this year and a likely flattening out of non-oil export growth without substantial new foreign investment.

## OPEC needs to sidestep divisions

By Nicholas Moore  
Reuter

Oil traders' caution after news broke last week of the emergency talks helped to arrest a dramatic slide in prices which, since January, had taken U.S. crude futures down from nearly \$34 per barrel to around \$18.

Delegates said that, as a next step, many in OPEC wanted only a stopgap accord to balance the market until late June, when OPEC meets again to set policy for the second half of the year.

### NEWS ANALYSIS

One idea aired by the Middle East Economic Survey, a Nicosia-based newsletter, on Monday is for an across-the-board production cut of five per cent from recent total OPEC output, widely assessed at around 24 million barrels per day (BPD).

Nations such as Iran, Iraq and Algeria, which have not been breaking their mandated quotas, may be expected to argue that output cuts must be pledged by those which have overproduced, most notably Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE.

The minister might be able to find a face-saving form of words that commits the quota-

violators to curb output but does not point a finger at them, and which also tells the market that output in May and June will be down by at least one million BPD.

Industry sources say output is probably already slipping to about 23.5 million BPD anyway. And OPEC excels in the art of writing communiques.

Failing a traditional compromise of this kind, however, it is possible that the May 2 emergency talks will have to address basic issues that would

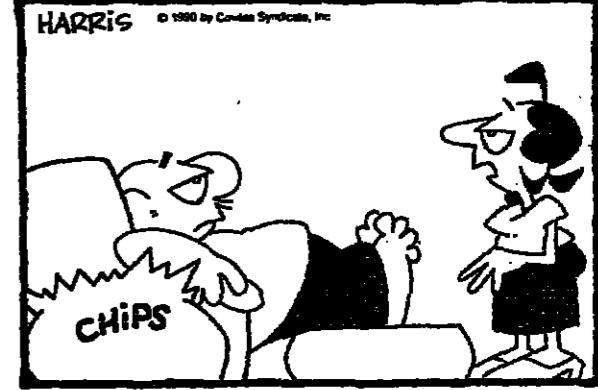
otherwise have been left until the regular mid-year conference, now set for the end of June.

At root, OPEC is in trouble because of pressure by the Gulf trio of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE for it to allocate them a bigger share of the market.

Industry sources say the trio's strategy seems to be to try to secure an accord for the second half of 1990, either now or in June, which raises the official ceiling on total OPEC output and stimulates long-term petroleum demand.

## THE BETTER HALF

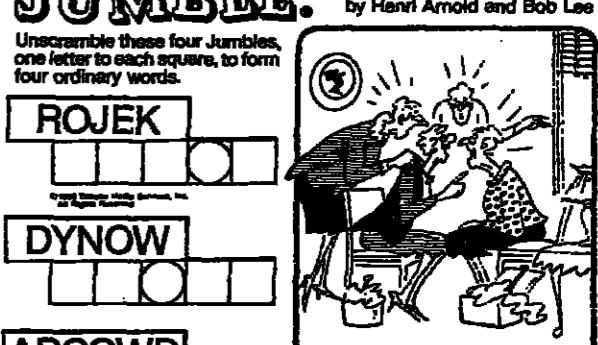
By Harris



"Maybe people evolved from apes, but feet evolved from skunks!"

## JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

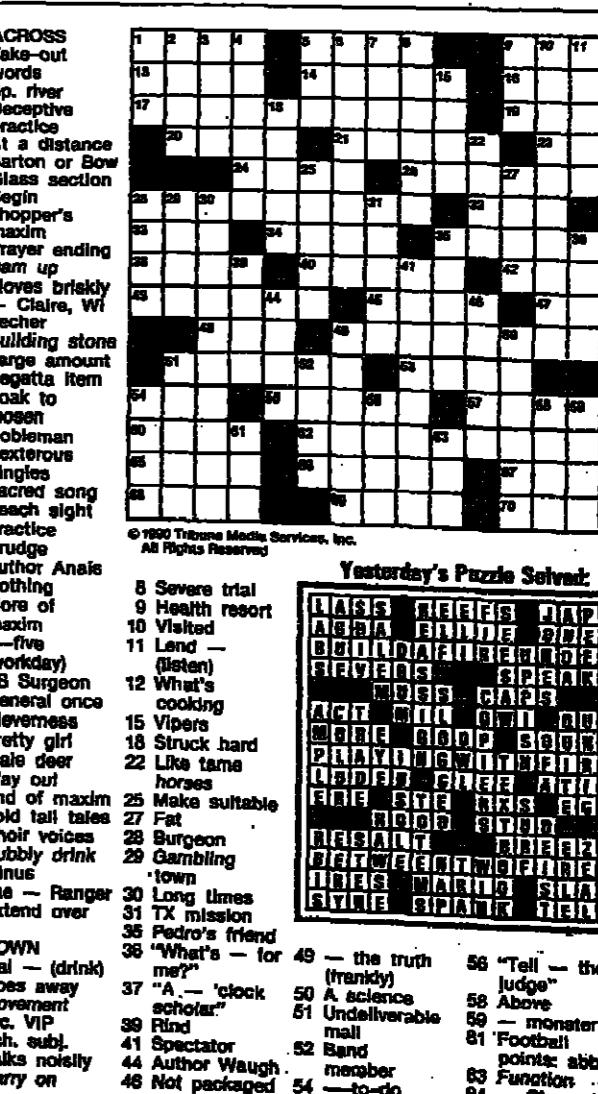


Print answer here: (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: UNWED ESSAY JABBER UNSEAT Answer: What happened when there was a squeak among the astronauts? —THEY SAW STARS

## THE Daily Crossword

by Craig Schultz



## Banke grabs super bantamweight title

LOS ANGELES (R) — Paul Banks of the United States won the World Boxing Council (WBC) super bantamweight title from Mexico's Daniel Zaragoza Monday in a bruising rematch when the referee stopped their fight in the ninth round of a scheduled 12-round bout.

Trailing on all the judges' scorecards, Banke knocked Zaragoza to the canvas midway through the ninth round with a flurry of punches to the head.

The 30-year-old Mexican got to his feet quickly, but Banke floored him a minute later with a left to the chin.

Referee John Thomas stopped the fight after the second knockdown at two minutes 51 seconds of the round.

The fight was fast-paced and brutal from the opening bell. The constant punching took its toll on both fighters, who were battered and bleeding after trading shots to the head for most of the bout. "I didn't care if I go hurt," said Banke, the WBC's third-ranked contender entering the fight. "I

just wanted to take it to him."

Zaragoza, in his sixth title defense, acknowledged that he disregarded his corner's instruction to take a more tactical approach.

"I didn't want to box him. I wanted to slug with him," Zaragoza said, dabbing his swollen eyes with a bag of ice. Zaragoza seemed to take control of the fight in the middle rounds, utilizing his three-inch (7.6 cm) reach advantage.

"In the fifth and sixth rounds I got a little tired," Banke said, but the 26-year-old American never let up.

The last time the two 122-pound (55.33 kilogram) fighters met, in June 1989, Zaragoza came back from a ninth-round knockdown to win a split points decision over Banke.

Despite the battering both fighters took in the two matches, they said they were eager to fight again.

The win raised banke's record to 19 wins against four losses. Zaragoza fell to 39 wins, five losses and one draw.

## Missing stars force changes in England team

LONDON (R) — England manager Robby Robson, deprived of his usual attacking line-up, has revamped his team for Wednesday's soccer friendly against fellow World Cup finalists Czechoslovakia.

For the first time in nearly two years, Robson was unable to call on either of his first-choice wingers — John Barnes of Liverpool and Chris Waddle of Marseille — because of injury and club commitments.

Striker Peter Beardsley is still recovering from a knee injury and has been ruled out of the match although he will join the squad at Wembley.

Tried and trusted midfielder Trevor Steven and Steve Hodge, veterans of the 1986 World Cup in Mexico with experience on the wings, are recalled. Hodge has not started a match for England since September 1988.

Steve Bull, high-scoring centre-forward for second division Wolverhampton Wanderers, comes in as understudy for Beardsley alongside Tottenham's Gary Lineker.

Like Lineker, the first division's top goalscorer, Bull is a natural marksman and has made three international appearances, one as substitute for Beardsley against Denmark last June.

England captain Bryan Robson returns for his first international since a groin injury last December, playing in the midfield alongside the gifted but frequently short-tempered Paul Gascoigne.

Arsenal's Lee Dixon makes his debut at right back but reserve goalkeeper Chris Woods looks unlikely to play any part in the match after he accidentally cut the top of a finger with a penknife Tuesday and needed four stitches in the wound.

Czechoslovakia give a controversial international recall to Ivo Knoficek and Lubos Kubik, who defected in 1988 and signed contracts to play for English first division Derby County, only to be denied by the International Football Federation (FIFA) as the moves did not conform with normal transfer procedure.

## Jahangir wins British Open for ninth year

LONDON (R) — Jahangir Khan won the British Open squash championship for a record-breaking ninth year in succession by beating Rodney Martin, the world number five from Australia, 9-6, 10-8, 9-1 Monday.

"This is the greatest day of my life," Jahangir said after completing the victory that eclipsed the run of eight titles won by Australia's Geoff Hunt.

The 79-minute defeat of Martin was Pakistan's Jahangir's 51st victory in a row at the British Open since setting out on the road to his first title in 1982.

Jahangir rated his latest success as one of his best. "I was very pleased with my performance and I played better than in many of the previous years," he said.

"Lots of people were saying I was not good enough or fit enough to win again this time, but I proved once more that I can do it."

Jahangir looked to be heading for a relatively easy win when he served for the second game at 8-5 but Martin saved five game balls before the top seed clinched an all-important 2-0 lead.

By then the match was 70 minutes old and the Australian

had little left to contest the third game in which he served just twice.

Jahangir scotched rumours that he would now retire. "I believe I can still play on for another three or four years as long I stay clear of injury problems," he said.

"I will cut down on the number of tournaments but I will certainly be back to try and win the British Open for at least a 10th time. To me this is the most important event in the world."

Earlier, Susan Devoy of New Zealand won the women's title for the seventh year in succession when she beat England's Suzanne Horner, the number 12 seed, 9-2, 1-9, 9-3, 9-3 in just under an hour.

Horner had beaten Martin Le Moignan, the reigning world champion, Robyn Lamourne, the fifth seed from Australia, and Lucy Souter, the British national champion, on her way to the title.

She reproduced the sort of form which brought her those scalps in the second game of the final, winning it in just nine minutes, but Devoy's immense experience and the best back hand shot in the women's game carried the day.

## Basketball roundup

By Associated Press

Philadelphia-Cleveland

THEIR records were good enough to win the Atlantic Division. Unfortunately, the Utair Jazz and the Phoenix Suns aren't in the Atlantic Division.

As a result, one of the Western Conference powers is going to make an early exit from National Basketball Association (NBA) playoffs, which start this week.

The Jazz (55-27) meet the Suns (54-28) in the opening round, beginning Friday night at the Salt Palace. It's the first time since the 1974 Detroit-Chicago series that two teams with more than 50 victories have met in the opening round.

Although Phoenix was 3-1 against Utah this season, the Jazz will have the homecourt advantage in the best-of-5 series because they had a better overall record.

"Utah is a little bit like us," Suns forward Tom Chambers said. "They lost some important games down the stretch and so did we. We're kind of in the same boat right now."

The playoffs open Thursday with Indiana at Detroit, New York at Boston, Cleveland at Philadelphia, Denver at San Antonio and Dallas at Portland.

On Friday, it's Phoenix at Utah, Milwaukee at Chicago and Houston at the Los Angeles Lakers.

### Eastern Conference

The defending champion Pistons won the Central Division and had the league's second-best record, but they lost eight of their last 16 games.

"We are just happy to get the season over with and get to the playoffs," forward James Edward said.

Indiana finished only two games above .500, barely made the playoffs and lost four of five games against Detroit. But Pacers coach Dick Versace remains confident.

"This is the greatest Pacer team ever," he said. "It is the greatest passing team, the best shooting team from 3-point range. This is the most enjoyable year I've ever had in coaching."

### Boston-New York

The Celtics surged at the end of the season, winning nine of their last 10 games.

"I feel we can beat anyone in the Eastern conference," Kevin McHale said. "We match up nicely with the Knicks and we know what we have to do."

The Knicks, who were 1-4 against Boston this season, enter the playoffs in a slump. They lost their last three games and 21 of their last 33.

"It's been kind of rough for us, but the playoffs is a totally new season," Knicks' centre Patrick Ewing said. "We just have to go in there and play the way we're capable of playing, not the way we've been playing."

### Chicago-Milwaukee

Michael Jordan expects the Bulls to win the NBA championship.

"I feel really good, and I'm looking forward to the playoffs," said the league's scoring champion. "We expect to go all the way."

Chicago finished second in the central, four games behind Detroit but 11 games ahead of third-place Milwaukee. The Bulls won their season series against the Bucks, 4-1.

### Western conference

The Lakers had the league's best record (63-19), while the Rockets squeezed into the playoffs on the final day of the season.

"The only thing I can say about this Rocket team is God must be smiling on us," coach Don Chaney said after Houston beat Utah 100-88 Sunday to earn the final playoff berth in the Western Conference.

"We keep screwing it up, but this time we got the job done. Our guys really reacted well under pressure. You wouldn't believe how relieved I am."

The Lakers, who split four games with Houston this season, haven't lost an opening-round series since 1981 — when the Rockets beat them.

## Sweden hopes for sharper strikers

STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden manager Olle Nordin hopes young newcomer Tomas Brodin will provide the striking prowess sorely missing from his team this year when they meet Wales in a World Cup soccer warm-up Wednesday.

Brodin, 20, struck five times for Ifk Norrkoping in the opening two matches of the Swedish premier league this month.

"He is a modern forward who also assumes defensive responsibilities," Nordin said.

The Sweden manager has only the Wales clash and an encounter with Finland on May 27, both in Stockholm, before the World Cup opener against Brazil on June 10 to sharpen his attack which has failed to score in four games this season.

Defender Stefan Schwarz has scored twice and midfielders Stefan Rehn and Klas Ingesson once each in the 2-1 defeat and 2-0 victory against the United Arab Emirates, and 0-0 and 1-1 draws with Belgium and Algeria respectively.

Sweden's three best-known top form on the Wales squad have been silent so far.

Mats Magnusson drove home a 30-metre free kick against Feirese Sunday for his 30th goal for Benfica this season, but the Swede rarely scores when wearing the national side's yellow and blue jersey.

Johnny Ekstrom completed a dazzling run to score Sweden's decisive second goal in the 2-0 World Cup qualifier against Poland which secured Sweden's ticket to Italy last autumn.

The two sides drew 0-0 in Turin on Feb. 28.

The brilliant Dutchman, who

has been sidelined with a knee

injury for 11 months, played for

30 minutes as Milan went down

## Steeb slides out of Monte Carlo Open

but failed to capitalise on his advantage.

"Charly's a very tough competitor so I tried to work him hard and make him a little bit confused," Svensson said. "And it worked."

Svensson, ranked 25th in the world, only nine places lower than his opponent, recently took up residence in Monaco and said he benefited a lot from playing a home match.

"It makes a lot of difference to be able to stay in your own apartment and cook your own food instead of staying in a hotel," he said.

Steeb was not the only seed to fall. Number 15 Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden was beaten by Ronald Ageron of Haiti but it was another result which could not be classified as a major upset.

Ageron, ranked 45th in the world, is always at his most dangerous on clay and had

everything his own way in a 6-2, 6-2 victory.

The only seed who did get through was number 12 Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union who managed a straight sets win over Yugoslav Goran Prpic.

The Monte Carlo tournament is the most prestigious of the early European clay court season but it has been hit by the withdrawal of several top names.

That was best illustrated by the tournament's official wine — a bottle of Mouton Cadet red with a special Monte Carlo label featuring pictures of the six top players.

Three of them — Americans John McEnroe and Andre Agassi along with Swede Mats Wilander — pulled out before the start of the event.

The other three, Edberg, Boris Becker and Yannick Noah of France, remain the only ones capable of drawing the crowds in large numbers.

## Gullit to miss Italian Cup final

By Reuters

2-1 to Verona.

But he is under strict orders from his doctor to rest.

Otherwise both sides are at full strength with Gullit's compatriots Marco Van Basten and Frank Rijkaard, who were both sent off against Verona, set to play.

Milan, who meet Portugal's Benfica in the European Cup final in Vienna on May 23, had a

nightmare match against Verona when three players in all plus

trainer Arrigo Sacchi were sent

off.

The defeat all but killed their chances of the league title and Juventus coach Dino Zoff fears a possible backlash Wednesday.

"I believe the team that is freshest athletically and coldest mentally will prevail," Zoff said.

Real Madrid midfielder Rafael Martin Vazquez, the hottest property in Spanish soccer this year, is another foreigner who could join the lucrative Italian league.

**MAP**  
جامعة العون الطبي للفلسطينيين / الأردن



Under the Patronage of H.R.H.  
Crown Prince Al-Hassan

Join

M.A.P.'s Sponsor Walk Friday 11 / 5 / 1990

\* Starts at 8:30 a.m. Jordan Intercontinental Hotel

\* Finishes at "Souk Baladi" - Al-Ram Street - Al-Yarmouk

In Cooperation with: Hotel Jordan Intercontinental & I.M.W.

لزيادة من المعلومات يرجى الاتصال بعاصف ٦٦١٠٥٦

شاركت

في مسيرة جامعة العون الطبي للفلسطينيين / الأردن

١٩٩٠ / ٥ / ١١

البلدة: إربد واصف ساحة منفذ إربد

البلدة: في "سوق بلادي" / مزة / قرية العنة / العنة

## NIJOUN

Happy Eid Al Fitr

and Many Happy Returns

Adel Imam... In

Hamifi the Great

(Hamifi Al Ubbah)

Starring: Fairuz Fishawi, Huda Ramzi.

Performances: 11:00 a.m., 1:15 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 6:15 p.m., 8:30 p.m., 10:30 p.m.

## PLAZA

Tel: 699238

1) PICASSO TRIGGER  
2) LUCKY SEVEN</

## Sandinista, contras accuse each other of breaking ceasefire

**MANAGUA (R)** — Nicaragua's Sandinista army and U.S.-backed contra rebels Monday accused each other of breaking the ceasefire aimed at ending the country's eight-year-old civil war.

"The counterrevolutionary forces continue violating the end of military attacks (called for in a ceasefire) signed on April 19," the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

It accused the contras of stopping vehicles, kidnapping three peasants and stealing money in four separate incidents in the north of the country on Friday and Monday.

Rebel Commander Oscar Sovalbarro meanwhile accused Sandinista forces of wounding a contra rebel in an attack on a group of contras Sunday, also in the north.

Speaking in the first camp set up by United Nations peacekeeping forces to receive disarmed contras, Sovalbarro said Sandinistas had attacked the rebels in

an area known as La Canada. "They were ready to leave when the Sandinistas arrived and attacked them with troops and heavy artillery," he said.

The head of United Nations peace-keeping and observer forces in Central America, Spain's General Agustin Quesada, confirmed there had been a clash but gave no details.

Asked if the incident could impede the disarmament process, Sovalbarro, known as Comandante Ruben, said: "If they carry out another attack it will endanger the agreements for Nicaraguan Resistance has the good will to comply with."

Under a separate demobilisation accord signed Thursday Sovalbarro and an aide to Nicaraguan President-elect Violeta Chávez

expected certain political, economic and security guarantees.

They said at the head of the list was a demand that Defence Minister Humberto Ortega and other senior Sandinista officials be removed from the Nicaraguan army.

U.N. peacekeeping troops from Venezuela, who are to collect rebel arms and supervise the separation of contra and Sandinista forces, started setting up the first such enclave.

At a contra camp about 15

kilometres away, contra military Chief of Staff Israel Galeano said he accepted the accord to disband but said the rebels expected further negotiations with Chávez's new government.

"The world is made of transactions and in this case we are real and armed. To stop being so would also be in exchange for something," Galeano told Reuters.

Galeano did not say what the rebels were demanding from the new government but other senior rebel leaders here said they ex-

## Sihanouk agrees to talks with Hun Sen

**BANGKOK (Agencies)** — Cambodia's stop-start war spluttered back to life Tuesday with guerrillas fighting to retake a cluster of battered villages in the parched northwest.

As non-Communist forces closed in on the bunkers around Svay Chek, Thai officials said exiled guerrilla leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk had agreed to preparatory talks here next month to lay the groundwork for proposed peace talks in Tokyo.

A spokesman for the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) said Tuesday about 2,500 guerrillas had retaken outposts around Svay Chek, a KPNLF stronghold for three months until government troops recaptured it in February.

"We have taken all the outposts around Svay Chek and that's why we think it will fall one moment or the next," Ok Serei Sopheap said by telephone from the border town of Aranyaprathet.

There were no immediate reports of casualties during the fighting, which began Monday.

A loose coalition of guerrilla armies, backed by China and the West and dominated by the internationally reviled Khmer Rouge,

have been fighting an 11-year war to oust Hun Sen's Vietnamese-installed government.

Since Vietnam withdrew its troops last September the guerrillas have made small gains, capturing a handful of villages and towns in the west and central regions, but with little sign of a military breakthrough.

Western diplomats said Svay Chek was important to the guerrillas as a source of water and as a symbol they had won more than a thin strip of territory from government forces.

The bunkered outpost, a day's march from the Thai border, has seen some of the season's heaviest fighting. Diplomats said both sides preferred to withdraw from the area rather than sustain casualties from rival artillery fire.

In Bangkok, Thai Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan's advisers said Sihanouk agreed to the proposed talks during a dinner with the Thai premier Monday night. He had earlier turned down the invitation.

Pansak Vinyarat, chairman of Chatichai's advisers, told Reuters the meeting would precede another round of peace talks between Sihanouk and rival Hun Sen in Tokyo, possibly in June.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### Gas blast kills 33 miners in China

**PEKING (R)** — A gas explosion in a coal mine in China's northern Heilongjiang province killed 33 workers and injured 11, according to a report available in Peking Tuesday. The Heilongjiang Daily said the explosion rocked the Taoshan mine in Qitaihe on April 15. It was caused by an electrical fault which halted the ventilation system, allowing gas to accumulate.

### Moscow to organise flights to Mecca

**MOSCOW (AP)** — Special flights will be organised this year for Muslims in the Soviet Union to travel to Saudi Arabia during the annual Hajj pilgrimage, a government spokesman said. The Soviet Union has no diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia, but Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has been asked to contact the Saudi government to formalise the arrangements concerning the flights and visas, presidential spokesman Arkady Maslennikov said Monday.

### Thousands mark Armenian genocide

**MOSCOW (AP)** — Hundreds of thousands of Armenians flocked to a hillside memorial in Yerevan Tuesday to mark the genocide that devastated their people 75 years ago, residents said. Armenians estimate that 1.5 million Armenians were killed between 1913 and 1923 by the Turkish Ottoman Empire. Turkish officials dispute Armenian accounts of the genocide, saying that only between 300,000 and 600,000 Armenians died, and most perished of disease, famine or attacks by marauders during forced deportation to Syria and Iraq from eastern Turkey. Beginning at dawn Tuesday, streams of Armenians crowded toward the memorial in the republic capital, waiting up to three hours to lay their flowers near its eternal flame, said Raffi Hovannessian, director of the Yerevan office of the Armenian Assembly of America. Black flags and red-blue and orange Armenian national flags flew from many of the city's buildings, he said in a telephone interview.

### Actress Paulette Goddard dies at 84

**ASCONA, Switzerland (R)** — Paulette Goddard, a vivacious Hollywood star of the 1940s who married Charlie Chaplin and co-starred in his film *Modern Times*, died Monday at her Swiss home aged 84. Authorities in the village of Porto Ronco near Ascona, where she had lived since 1969, said she died of natural causes. The slim, dark Goddard, was married four times — to wealthy Englishman Edgar James, Chaplin, actor Burgess Meredith and author Erich Maria Remarque. She was said to have kept her engagement rings on a necklace.

### Australia sells 50 Mirage jets to Pakistan

**SYDNEY (R)** — Australia will sell 50 mothballed Mirage jets to Pakistan for 36 million dollars (\$27 million), Minister for Defence Robert Ray said Tuesday. The jets have been protected from corrosion in three hangars on the edge of the Woomera Rocket Range in south Australia. The French-designed fighter jets, costing 1.5 million dollars (\$1.1 million) each when new, were in service from the early 1960s until November, 1987, when they began to be mothballed and replaced by the F-18. They were never used in war. Ray said in a statement the Mirages were offered for sale in August, 1988, and negotiations with Pakistan had been in progress since later that year. The Pakistan Air Force already operates Mirage aircraft similar to those bought in Australia, he said.

## Lagos airport reopens after coup attempt

**LAGOS (R)** — International flights to and from the Nigerian capital have resumed after being suspended following an unsuccessful coup attempt, a Lagos airport official said Tuesday.

Forces loyal to President Ibrahim Babangida Sunday crushed the attempt by disgruntled junior officers to seize power in Africa's most populous nation.

Nigeria's military rulers said four people were killed in the attempt which had backed from wealthy and powerful people.

Colonel Anthony Ukp, principal staff officer to Babangida, told a news conference Monday that 10 officers and more than 150 lower ranks had been arrested.

The rebels had the "active support of people outside the military," Ukp said at a news conference at Dodan Barracks, Babangida's base which was attacked during Sunday's attempt.

He did not identify them but said: "these people are rich. They are powerful."

He said the coup leaders' motives were selfish or sectional, adding: "Their objective was not to take over government but to kill and maim those they probably have grudges against."

The authorities had found an operations base at Ikorodu outside the city stocked with rifles, pistols, ammunition and vehicles, Ukp said.

Those involved in the attempted takeover received gifts or promises of cash and cars to take part, he added.

Ukp said at least four people were killed in skirmishes at the barracks and two other military locations in the capital.

He did not identify the dead but Babangida has said his personal bodyguard was among those killed.

Those arrested included Major Gideon Orkar who made a radio broadcast claiming to represent people of the south and middle belt regions against the traditionally dominant north.

Ukp said court martial should start next week. Eleven officers were still being sought.

## Romanians protest against Iliescu

**BUCHAREST (R)** — About 3,000 anti-government demonstrators spilled into a central Bucharest square Tuesday as Romania's Interim President Ion Iliescu warned he would not tolerate further disturbances.

The crowd, yelling "down with Iliescu," pushed its way through cords of helmeted police armed with batons and automatic rifles into University Square, hours after police had used clubs to break up a protest at dawn.

"We cannot allow a bunch of vagabonds to disturb public peace and order," Iliescu told a session of the provisional Council of National Unity (provisional parliament).

The demonstrators chanted: "Iliescu, we will vote for you in Moscow" reflecting fears Iliescu might try to introduce a new form of Communism to Romania.

Protesters have accused the National Salvation Front (NSF) government, which took power after December's overthrow of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, of harbouring former Communists and failing to break with the old order.

Witnesses said police had beaten some 20 of 200 fleeing protesters in a baton charge earlier Tuesday.

Tuesday's demonstrators, most of them young, squatted in the centre of the square and the Magheru Boulevard or chanted "join us, join us" at police and crowds of onlookers.

A police helicopter hovered overhead and a special anti-terror unit stood ready in front of the nearby National Theatre.

Leon Nica, a representative of the Union of Centrist Parties, told Iliescu in parliament: "You can call them vagabonds now, but they are the people who put you in power."

He has referring to December's mass uprising that brought the NSF to power and ended in Ceausescu's execution.

The front will be running for office in Romania's first free elections in over half a century on May 20. Iliescu is a presidential candidate.

The rebels had the "active support of people outside the military," Ukp said at a news conference at Dodan Barracks, Babangida's base which was attacked during Sunday's attempt.

He did not identify them but said: "these people are rich. They are powerful."

He said the coup leaders' motives were selfish or sectional, adding: "Their objective was not to take over government but to kill and maim those they probably have grudges against."

The authorities had found an operations base at Ikorodu outside the city stocked with rifles, pistols, ammunition and vehicles, Ukp said.

Those involved in the attempted takeover received gifts or promises of cash and cars to take part, he added.

Ukp said at least four people were killed in skirmishes at the barracks and two other military locations in the capital.

He did not identify the dead but Babangida has said his personal bodyguard was among those killed.

Those arrested included Major Gideon Orkar who made a radio broadcast claiming to represent people of the south and middle belt regions against the traditionally dominant north.

Ukp said court martial should start next week. Eleven officers were still being sought.

As part of the crackdown, President Virgilio Barco decreed a policy of extracting Colombian

## Curfew on Kathmandu lifted

**KATHMANDU (R)** — Kathmandu nervously licked its wounds Tuesday with nobody really sure who held power — Nepal's new reformist government or its absolute monarch.

New Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai announced regular dusk-to-dawn curfews after at least six people died Monday in a day of crowd attacks on police and police firing on demonstrators.

There was a great deal of nervousness evident Tuesday with more posters going up alleging a monarchist plot existed to undermine Bhattarai's interim administration.

King Birendra, still legally the absolute ruler of this poor Himalayan kingdom, gave way in the face of massive pro-democracy protests last week and installed Bhattarai with a mandate to introduce parliamentary democracy and a constitutional monarchy.

A special commission is due to recommend changes to the constitution but for the moment the old one still exists. It says all powers emanate from the throne.

Violence began soon after dawn Monday when people, incensed at deaths during the democracy campaign and excited by rumours of monarchist conspiracies, began attacking police.

Thousands surged through the city. Interior Minister Yogi Prasad Upadhyay was detained at one point and forced to promise that alleged pro-monarchist "conspirators" in the police would be punished.

Other people marched on the royal palace chanting "Birendra, give the country, you've lost control" to the man traditionally revered as a descendant of the Hindu god Vishnu.

Security forces, uncertain whether they answer to the palace or to cabinet ministers they held in detention or under house arrest just two weeks ago, returned to base when the curfew ended at dawn Tuesday.

But soon afterwards about 30 riot police arrived to guard the burnt-out headquarters of the city's main law and order office, scattering youths who had been scavenging through the debris.

One fleeing youth dropped what looked like ammunition.

Witnesses said others had managed to carry away two or three rifles from the least damaged section of the building, the Firearms Department where local people had to deposit guns for registration.

The streets around the headquarters, sealed off Monday while police drove back demonstrators, were pink with the dust of broken bricks and littered with sandals discarded in flight.

Crowds scrutinised charred official documents blown from the building.

Others packed into nearby Bir Hospital and scuffled in the lobby for a glimpse of six corpses sprawled behind a canvas screen.

One was a frail child doctor said was a girl of about 10, caught in police gunfire Monday.

Two were policemen, beaten to death by crowds.

In the bazaars behind the hospital, men and women crowded around vegetable vendors and peasants squatting beside cages of squawking chickens, stocking up on rumours.

Others huddled whispering in groups or stared silently at wall posters warning of monarchist plots.

Many said they did not know whether to drink tap water. City-wide rumours said the supply had been poisoned.

drag suspects for trial in the United States. The traffickers often escaped justice at home by bribing or threatening court workers.

In one operation, police rescued Diego Barrientos without injury, shot and killed three of the persons who had abducted three others.

The communiqué gave no further details.

In another operation, hostage Carlos Sierra, the manager of a brick making firm, was killed by his captors when police attacked, the police communiqué said.

Police shot and killed five kidnappers, the communiqué said.

Meanwhile a state government said it will pay fishermen for each body they retrieve from a river that runs through a region dominated by drug traffickers and leftist guerrillas.

Three victims who had been pulled from the Cauca River in the southern Valle state were buried Sunday.

Hours later the Valle government said a reward would be paid to fishermen who recover any other bodies near the town of Traquillo, 298 kilometres west of Bogota.

The town has been wracked by

## Centre-right party claims victory in Croatian polls

was actually leading in the total number of votes.

No results were available for the remaining legislative seats, nor for the national parliament's 180-seat labour chamber for which all employed citizens voted Monday.

"We expect to win about 60 per cent of the vote — an overwhelming majority," Zarko Djuric, the CDU chief in the Croatian capital of Zagreb, told the Associated Press from the party headquarters.

The building, decked in Croatian flags with the traditional red-and-white checkered shield instead of the official Communist red star, was joining campaign workers and supporters to celebrate a "historic victory."

The CDU has been accused by the Communist-dominated media in Yugoslavia's largest Republic of Serbia of being an "extreme nationalist" organisation seeking full independence for Croatia and the break-up of the fragile Yugoslav Federation.

## Column 10

Liz Taylor in serious condition

**SANTA MONICA, California (AP)** — Elizabeth Taylor is in serious condition following surgery to determine the cause of pneumonia that has kept the actress hospitalised for more than two weeks, her doctors said. "She is seriously ill and on Sunday underwent a lung biopsy to further determine the cause of her pneumonia," Taylor's doctor said in a news release Monday. "